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COMMENT OF THE DAY

Crucial Week

THIS week Europe faces its most critical period since 1939. France is at the crossroads and the debate on the ratification of the London and Paris Agreements, which starts today, will be closely watched by the other partners of the embryo Western European Union. France has been told that ratification of the new alliance will automatically annul the Franco-Russians Treaty of 1944 and set in motion the rearming of Eastern Germany and a building up of armed forces in the Soviet bloc to "protect themselves against the capitalistic warmongers of the West." The French Government, far from stable at the best of the times, has already suffered from these threats and if M. Mendes-France can put on this crucial debate it will be a magnificent achievement. This is the last chance. A bold stand must be made as it is no time to talk to the Russians—that can be done after the ratification of the London and Paris Agreements. In any case there is no evidence that the Russians want to talk now, except for delaying purposes.

THE despair is of the Russian Government ever permitting or wanting free elections in Eastern Germany; the impossibility is of agreement without such a concession. At the Berlin conference last February Mr Molotov was not prepared to concede free elections, nor has he made any worthwhile move towards them since. There are also the German to consider as few of them, it seems, want reunion through unarmed neutrality and few of them think that the neutrality could last for long. They suspect that, instead, it would open the way for a Communist coup. They would be defenceless after the departure of the North Atlantic Treaty forces so in neutrality they see a trap. The Western aim, in part, is to strengthen its own security alliance through the London and Paris Agreements.

ANY conference, therefore, at the present time would have an air of utter unreality. One side would be trying to destroy what the other was trying to build up so there is no solution now along conference lines. The period of negotiation and probation has been long drawn. What would the Germans think if, at this stage, the Western Powers were let down by France and forced to turn back on all that they have offered? Any retrograde step at this juncture would tend to alienate the Germans. Also it would be misleading to conclude that the Western Powers can with impunity postpone giving Western Germany her independence and right to rearm. To do so would be to turn many Germans against us and we should weaken the forces of moderation within Western Germany and undo the progress towards unity in Western Europe. Any backsliding now or deviation from the path laid down at the London and Paris conferences can have only an adverse effect on those we are trying to bring under our banner. Therefore the importance of the French Assembly vote on Ultimatum Eve cannot be overemphasized.

FIGHTING STAND BY ENGLAND

May And Cowdrey Come To The Rescue After Early Setbacks

BAILEY, GRAVENEY FAIL

Sydney, Dec. 20.

England are fighting desperately to avert defeat in the second Test Match at Sydney.

In fine warm weather, England began its second innings today 74 runs behind the Australian first innings total of 228—and began badly. Before lunch, Captain Len Hutton, Trevor Bailey and Tom Graveney were out and it looked as if there would be a repetition of Friday's disastrous first innings.

Then Peter May and Colin Cowdrey came to the rescue and began a fighting stand. As the China Mail went to Press, May was 54 and Cowdrey was 37.

They had added 52 runs in 83 minutes. May's score included only three fours while Cowdrey's included only one.

May, giving one of his best batting displays of the tour so far, sent Archer to the fence to reach his half century in 140 minutes.

His innings was unanimously described by commentators as "splendid."

Australia, with a lead of 74 on the first innings, had assumed a commanding position against England in the second Test by lunch here today, having dismissed Len Hutton, Trevor Bailey and Graveney for only 58 runs.

At the adjournment England was still 16 runs behind, with seven second innings wickets standing.

May was then 21 not out and Cowdrey 3 not out.

First to go this morning was Bailey. After making six he snicked a delivery from Archer into Langley's gloves — and England was one down for 18.

Peter May and Hutton, by careful cricket, took the score to 55, when disaster struck — both Hutton and Graveney being dismissed at this figure, by Bill Johnston, whose first over it was.

Hutton, after making 28, was caught by Benaud and then Graveney, before he had opened his account, was caught by Langley — and England had lost three of their best batsmen for only 55. England reached 50 in 72 minutes.

SCOREBOARD

First Innings: England 154 Australia 228.

England—2nd Innings	
Len Hutton, c Benaud, b. Johnston	28
T. Bailey, c. Langley, b. Archer	6
Graveney, c. Langley b. Johnston	0
P. May n.o.	54
Cowdrey n.o.	37
Total for three wkts	124

Hammarskjold Meets Chinese Ambassador

Preliminary Discussions On U.N. Secretary's Visit To Peking

Stockholm, Dec. 19.

Mr Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General of the United Nations, today met the Chinese Ambassador to Sweden, General Keng Piao, and discussed with him various practical matters relating to his forthcoming visit to Peking, Mr Wilder Foote, United Nations information officer, announced in a press conference this evening.

Their meeting took place at a lunch given by Mr Unc Villers, Librarian of the Swedish Realm. No other guests, except the Ambassador's interpreter, were present.

No further meeting is planned at present before the Secretary-General's return on Tuesday afternoon to the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Mr Foote added.

"THOROUGH TALKS"

A diplomatic source said the discussions were thorough. Whether a new meeting between General Keng Piao and Mr Hammarskjold is arranged will probably depend on the instructions the Chinese Ambassador receives from his Government after it has studied his report on today's meeting.

Mr Wilder Foote of the United Nations Information Department told a press conference at the Swedish Foreign Department that Mr. Hammarskjold would fly to New York on Tuesday afternoon and would leave from there "as soon as possible after December 26."

Mr Foote had no information about whom the Secretary-General would take to Peking as interpreter and aide. Nor had he any information about details of the lunch with General Keng Piao, but he said Mr Hammarskjold and General Keng were "discussing practical details" at the lunch.

RECEPTION IN PEKING

Political quarters believed Mr Hammarskjold sounded out General Keng on what kind of reception he would receive in Peking and how Communist China viewed his trip.

Asked about reports that Mr Hammarskjold was going to see the Indian Premier, Mr Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr Foote said he could neither confirm nor deny these reports. He said: "It will probably be announced later, possibly when the Secretary-General arrives in New York what people he is going to see."

In the meantime, Mr Henry Cabot Lodge, U.S. delegate to the United Nations, urged patience on the part of the American people while Mr Hammarskjold attempted to negotiate the release of the airmen.

"I think it was the only thing to do," he said after the Security Council meeting.

Lodge said the best way to serve the interest of these men is for us to keep quiet while the Secretary-General of the United Nations tries to get them out," said Mr Lodge.

MAY USE FORCE

Mr Lodge, who appeared on the television programme "Youth Wants to Know", refused to speculate on the next step if peaceful means failed.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Senator Alexander Wiley (Republican), has said the U.N. probably would be asked to use force in that case.

Dr Koo, the Chinese Ambassador, was interviewed on the television programme "Face the Nation." Asked directly about chances for the release of the men, Dr Koo said: "I think eventually you will get them."

He said he believed the airmen were jailed to force just some action by the U.N. as Mr Hammarskjold's visit to Peking. Dr Koo said the United Nations had been placed in the position of "begging" the Communists to release the Americans.—United Press.

Five Killed In Ben Nevis Sleigh Accident

London, Dec. 19.

Four men and one woman were killed today when their sleigh shot over a precipice on Ben Nevis and dropped into a 900-foot ravine.

The victims were members of a Royal Navy Party of 11 who were sleighing on Cloire Leis, a large plateau north-east of 4,406-foot Ben Nevis, Scotland's highest mountain, which overlooks Loch Lomond.

Rescue workers will start out at dawn in an effort to recover the bodies.—United Press.

Rescue Worker Leads Children To Safety



This picture, taken by our Staff photographer as the height of this morning's blaze, shows two tots being led to safety by a rescue worker and two policemen.

Our reporter writes: Registration of the victims of this morning's squatter fire at Tai Wan Village, Hung Hom, Kowloon, has almost been completed and up to the present about 2,500 people have registered. This represents 670 families.

Temporary shelter for the homeless has been set up on a vacant lot at Wuhu Street, where a canvas colony has sprung up. Five thousand meals will be distributed by the Social Welfare Office to the victims sometime today.

Five people—one woman and four children—died in the fire, which destroyed 500 huts. Four victims are still being detained at the Kowloon Hospital while 38 have been discharged after treatment.

The cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained but investigations are under way.

Ratification Of London, Paris Treaties

CRUCIAL WEEK FOR FRENCH PREMIER

Paris, Dec. 20.

The French Premier M. Pierre Mendes-France begins preparing for his most crucial Parliamentary battle since he came to power last June.

The Premier faced two key votes this week: a vote of confidence on his amended Indo-China budget following a Parliamentary defeat on the original budget last week, and a vote on the Paris Agreements.

Observers here believe the Premier will survive the vote on the Indo-China budget scheduled to take place tomorrow. His majority is expected to be small but sufficient.

DIFFICULT TO PREDICT

The outcome of the debate on the Paris Agreements, also scheduled to open tomorrow, is more difficult to predict.

It is generally thought that the Premier will get a slim majority but the number of unknown elements is too large to make any prediction safe.

M. Mendes-France seems determined to insist on unqualified ratification of the Paris Agreements. It is thought possible, however, that one or more motions might be presented in favour of subjecting ratification—or implementation—of the agreements to certain conditions.

POSTPONEMENT PLEA

The Premier seemed equally determined to forestall any move to postpone the debate. He was reported last night to have rejected a postponement plea by some members of the Social Republican (former Gaullist) group.

Followers of General Charles de Gaulle, who have supported M. Mendes-France, went to the Quai d'Orsay today to talk him into at least a short postponement of the debate. But informed sources said he turned them down.

No French newspaper commentators today were prepared to forecast the result of today's confidence vote to be taken before the National Assembly started debating the ratification of the Paris Agreements.

A CLOSE THING

All agreed it would be a close thing for the Mendes-France Cabinet which is staking its existence nominally on approval of the Indo-China estimates in the 1955 budget.

Arts — Communist leftwing Franc Tireur however headlined: "M. Mendes-France seems assured of a majority" and said that barring accidents he should get by with about ten votes to spare.

Conservative Le Figaro without hazarding any estimate wrote that "it seems that the prospect of ratification of the agreements should safeguard the government against any surprise."—Reuter.

Nutting Statement

China Wants Explanation

London, Dec. 19.

A New China News Agency commentator tonight demanded that the British Government should explain Mr Anthony Nutting's "public statement against the Chinese people."

The commentator said it was a week since Mr Nutting made his statement yet the British Government has so far failed to deny that the statement represented British policy.

(Mr Nutting, British Minister of State, said in an American television interview that Britain could be "involved" if the Communists attacked Nationalist-held Formosa).

Referring to the controversy the commentator said: "They (the British public) know from their own experience, particularly from the experiences in the Korean war, that Britain has nothing to gain to act as a screw for the United States."

During the Geneva conference, added the Commentator, Britain was ready to readjust relations with China. Then Mr Nutting "clamouring for war" described China as Britain's "potential enemy."

"How does such a remark fit in with the normalisation of Sino-British relations?" the commentator asked.—Reuter.

Valerie Hobson To Be Married

London, Dec. 20.

Miss Valerie Hobson, the actress, and John Profumo, Conservative Member of Parliament for Kettering, are to be married in January.

Miss Hobson, who is 37, was married to Mr David Sutton, a film director, from 1945 to 1952. They have a son, John, who is seven.

Mr Profumo, who is 39, was married to Miss Pamela Berry, daughter of Lord Camrose, from 1940 to 1954. They have a son and a daughter.—Reuter.

Big U.S. Foundations Under Fire

Republicans Attack 'Intellectual Cartels'

Washington, Dec. 19.

A report signed by three Republican members of a U.S. House of Representatives Committee, today described major American tax-free foundations as an "intellectual cartel" and an organisation which "directly" supported subversion" and promoted Socialism.

The two Democrats on the five-member Committee said in a minority statement that the report was a "crackpot" view of people with "fear sickness."

The foundations most frequently mentioned in the report were the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Institution.

Mr Rowan Gaither, President of the Ford Foundation, said the Committee's investigation had been carried out "in flagrant disregard of principles of fair-mindedness, fair hearing and fair play." He said the foundation had not been allowed to testify.

'ENORMOUS POWER'

The report said that the foundations were spending public money in effect because of their tax-free status.

At one point, it said: "Alertness on the part of the Rockefeller and Carnegie trustees and the expenditure of the time necessary to see to the use made of the public's money by the the Institute of Pacific Relations might have saved China from the Communists and prevented the war in Korea."

The report said the foundations exerted "enormous power" in moulding thinking in the United States and that this power was amplified because of interlocking trusteeships, with actual power wielded by professional foundation administrators.

"The aggregate thought control powers of this vast foundation and foundation sponsored bureaucracy can hardly be exaggerated."

The report added that "externally, Communism is the greatest danger, but internally, Socialism offers a far greater menace."

It said evidence had been found that "the form of globalism which the foundations have so actively promoted and from which our foreign policy has suffered seriously, related definitely to a collectivist point of view."

FEAR-SICKNESS

In their minority report the Democrats said that "the fear sickness of this group leads them to brand as conspiratorial anti-un-American the citizens and organisations who support the great liberal tradition in our society."

It also criticised the abrupt ending by the Republicans of committee hearings after 16 days of testimony in which only one pro-foundation witness appeared. The minority report said this was an indication of bias evident from the start.—Reuter.

350 Engineers May Be Reinstated

London, Dec. 20.

Mr Peter Masefield, Chief Executive of the British European Airways, decided last night that the 350 engineers whom he dismissed for attending a trade union meeting during working hours would be reinstated, if they showed up for work on Monday morning.—France-Presse.

Stern Warning To Cyprus Rioters

Nicosia, Cyprus, Dec. 19.

The Governor of Cyprus, Sir Robert Armitage, warned the people of the island tonight that he would take all the appropriate steps to prevent a repetition of yesterday's serious anti-British rioting.

Sir Robert was speaking in a broadcast following Saturday's wave of rioting in which several people were injured and property destroyed. The demonstrations were organised by students to express dissatisfaction with the United Nations refusal to discuss the union of Cyprus with Greece.

Commenting on the United Nations decision, the Governor said that it was a "moral mandate" for the British Government to press on with its plans for Cyprus self-government.

A NEW PLEDGE

"The United Nations verdict with its moral mandate for the right of self-determination to all peoples is a pledge to the Government of the United Kingdom that the progress towards the full measure of self-government for Cyprus has taken a new step forward."

Earlier stone-throwing students demonstrated again in Nicosia's Metaxas Square today—defying a British ban on more than five people meeting in any public place.

Whistling and jeering, the youths stoned armed police riot squads and pelting British cars. Tear gas was used to break up the demonstration after right and left-wing Greek Trade Union leaders had appealed from police loudspeakers for the students to disperse.

CRYING RAIN

Rain—the enemy of rioters—drenched the Nicosia streets as shopkeepers began clearing up shattered shop fronts and broken doors from yesterday's riots.

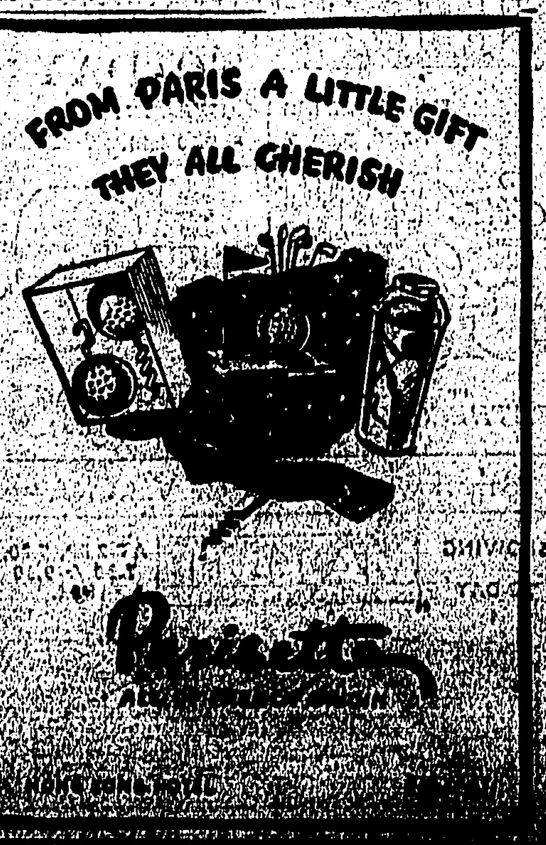
The demonstrations were touched off by the United Nations decision to shelve a Greek demand for the British colony to be given the right to "self-determination."

NOTICES POSTED

Notices were posted in both towns today warning of new disturbances and violence.

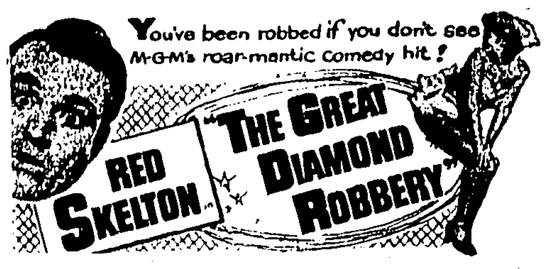
Meetings of more than five people were banned. Proprietors were ordered to obey orders from troops or police.

The police feared that the rioters have stocks of arms and ammunition and they placed guards on all police stations and other buildings.—Reuter.



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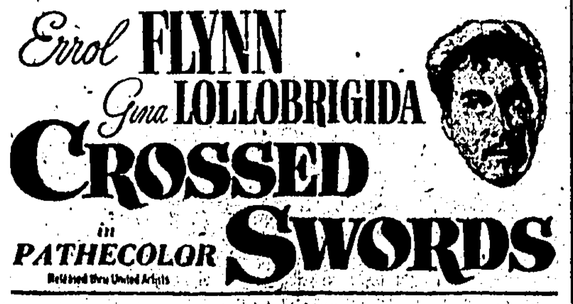
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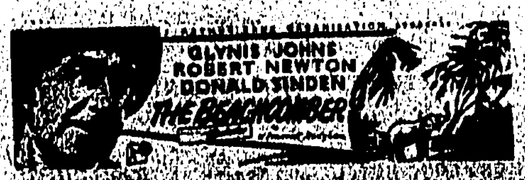
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TO-MORROW: "JEWEL OF CALCUTTA"

RUSSIAN NOTES

Replies To Refusals To Attend Moscow Meeting

CONTENTS REVEALED

Moscow, Dec. 19.

Russia today released details of notes sent to five European countries — Finland, Sweden, Yugoslavia, Switzerland and Austria—on their replies to her invitation to a European security conference in Moscow last month.

Invitations were sent on November 13 to all European countries with whom the Soviet Union had relations.

When the conference was held on November 29 it was attended by eight European Communist countries and a Chinese Communist observer.

Russia's replies to small non-Communist European countries were delivered on Friday.

EXPRESSED REGRET

The replies to Sweden, Yugoslavia, Finland, Switzerland and Austria were delivered the same day—Tass, official Soviet news agency, stated today.

Tass said the Soviet note to Finland expressed regret that it was not able to take part in the conference.

But in view of Finland's "positive attitude" towards the Soviet Union's aim for creating a European collective security system: "The Soviet Government presumes that the Government of Finland will make its contribution to the cause of creating a system of collective security in Europe."

Sweden was assured that the proposed treaty would conform to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

And the note added: "On its part, the Soviet Government is naturally prepared to study any proposals concerning the question of establishing a system of collective security in Europe, if such proposals were presented by the Swedish Government—whose responsible representatives have on many occasions tried, and is trying now, to contribute to the consolidation of peace and international co-operation."

The Soviet note to Yugoslavia welcomed that country's recognition that such a conference would be a considerable contribution to lessening international tension.

GREAT IMPORTANCE

It added that it would "be of great importance for the Government of Yugoslavia—whose peoples twice in a generation were the victims of devastating wars unleashed by German militarism — will seriously consider the danger to the European peoples of the resurrection of the West German Wehrmacht...."

The note to Switzerland said the Soviet Government had noted "the Swiss Government's declaration that it has always tried, and is trying now, to contribute to the cause of safeguarding peace and security in Europe.

"The Soviet Government deems that real security for all peoples in Europe can only be safeguarded by shelving the plan of demilitarising West Germany and including her in military groups, and by creating an effective system of collective security in Europe ....".

The note to Austria regretted her refusal to take part in the conference. The Austrian Government had explained it could only take part in the conference if all the states occupying Austria took part in it, the note recalled.

"The Soviet Government cannot but draw the Austrian Government's attention to the fact that the Governments of France, Britain and the United States—striving to implement their plans for the remilitarisation of Western Germany—have refused to hold negotiations proposed by the Soviet Government, declaring that at present there did not exist the conditions necessary to ensure a successful conference on Germany, Austria and other aspects of European security," it said.

"The plans for the remilitarisation of Western Germany ... provided for under the Paris agreements, cannot but increase the threat to Austria... and thus create new obstacles on the road leading to a final settlement of the Austrian question."—Reuter.

Saigon Strike Takes Turn For Worse

Saigon, Dec. 19.

The strike of 30,000 Vietnamese workers employed in French military workshops here took a turn for the worse today when the strikers asked the Vietnamese government to take their side in their argument with the French Army.

Helmeted policemen carrying rifles and trucks loaded with reinforcements were patrolling day and night around the workshops as the strikers issued an ultimatum asking for an answer to their demand, before December 20.

Officials were worried about possible disorders and they said strict police measures would be taken to prevent the strikers from Saigon and nearby Cholon holding demonstrations in Saigon. —United Press.

NO ACTION AT LONDON AIRPORT

London, Dec. 19.

Maintenance engineers at London Airport were asked today by their trade union not to take any action in support of the 315 engineers dismissed on Friday before they have heard "the full history of the case."

Shop stewards representing 4,000 maintenance workers employed by British Overseas Airways Corporation meet tomorrow to discuss the case of the 315 men sacked by their fellow state-owned Corporation, British European Airways, because they held a mass meeting "in flagrant defiance of the management ruling."

B.E.A. said the meeting called for "go slow" working with a ban on overtime because a shop steward, Mr Jack Peters, had been refused unrestricted freedom to move about the base on a full time paid basis.

Mr Jim Matthews, trade union representative for the maintenance men, will meet Mr Peter Masefield, Chief Executive of B.E.A., tonight at London airport to discuss the case.—China Mail Special.

Artificial Rain-Making Successful

Jadotville, Belgian Congo, Dec. 20.

Violent rainstorms over this region in the Katanga copperbelt, which filled the vital hydro-electric basins in the Lualaba and Lufira Valleys, are attributed to artificial rain-making.

After three successive years of drought, rain-making experiments began last year. Large quantities of silver iodide were thrown up into the upper air from aircraft this year when the rains failed to appear.—China Mail Special.

Sir John Nicoll Inspects Guard



Sir John Nicoll, Governor of Singapore, inspecting a guard of honour of Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reservists at Telok Ayer Basin. Straits Times Photo.

Singapore Taking Precautions Against A-Bombs

Singapore, Dec. 19.

Singapore, once dubbed an "Impregnable Fortress" is taking all precautions to meet an atom bomb attack.

Group Captain H. G. Rowe, Acting Commissioner of the Civil Defence Corps, in answer to a question "what measures is Singapore taking against such a catastrophe?" replied, "Though some military experts discount the use of atomic weapons in the next war the Corps is taking all precautions to meet it."

Group Capt. Rowe said at present classes of national servicemen and civil defence members are being taught the theory of atomic warfare and rescue operations.

RESCUE OPERATIONS

"Rescue operations will be the same as those employed in the explosion of high explosive bombs with the exception of one factor —radiation," Group Capt. Rowe said.

"And to this end," the Acting Commissioner of Civil Defence added, "we are teaching these men what to expect if such a bomb should fall."

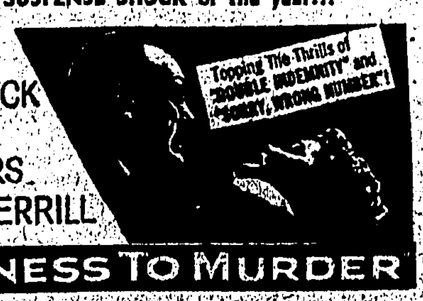
Group Capt. Rowe said, "What counts above everything else is that the public should have a thorough knowledge of the A-bomb. In the event of a war about four per cent of the population would be mobilised into the civil defence."

The Deputy Chief of Singapore Civil Defence Corps said that the A-bomb is a "terrible weapon" but if "we are prepared for it we can save a lot of lives and stave of panic."

887 MEMBERS

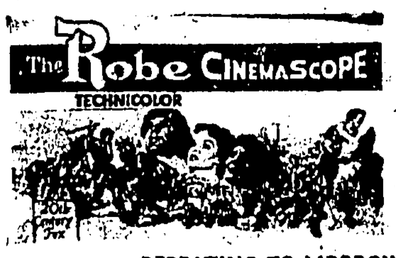
Group Capt. Rowe said there are at present 887 members in the Civil Defence—362 on the active list and 525 in the reserves. Besides these, he said, there are about 600 national servicemen undergoing basic training, first aid and basic rescue.

A rough survey shows that a nominal size A-bomb—the smallest type being produced today and equivalent to 20,000 tons of TNT—is capable of levelling the "heart" of Singapore city, which included two hospitals, government offices, Volunteer Headquarters Government House, Singapore's only skyscraper Cathay Building and all the city's big cinema halls.—United Press.

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THE MOST ROMANTIC FRENCH PICTURE OF THE YEAR!
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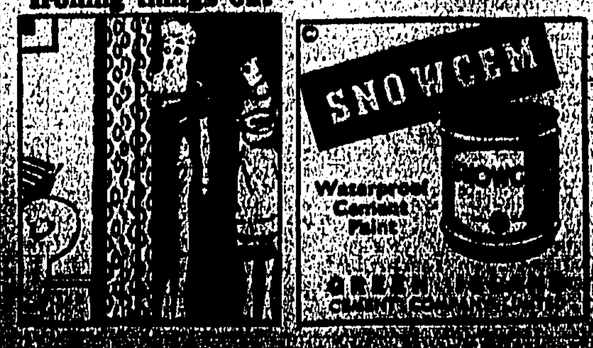
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Commencing To-morrow: "FLAME OF CALCUTTA"

POP



Ironing things out



EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION

Council Weaving Organisations Into Framework

SAAR DISPUTE AVOIDED

Paris, Dec. 19.

The Council of Europe set to work today to weave Western European Union and other European organisations into a framework of Continental co-operation, but kept hands off the ticklish Saar dispute between France and Germany.

The Foreign Ministers of the Council, in an all-day session at the Chateau de la Muette here, reserved their decision on the recent resolution of the Council's Consultative Assembly endorsing the Franco-German agreement on the Saar.

They also reserved decision on the Assembly's resolution calling for four-power talks with Russia after the ratification of Western European Union.

GENERAL CONSENT

Authoritative spokesmen said the Ministers reserved the twin decisions, "by general consent", that they should take no hand in the issues until the Paris Agreements of last October were ratified and France and Germany had reached agreement on the Saar by themselves.

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer had sent his top aide, Herr Herbert Blankenhorn, to a whirlwind series of top-level conferences here over the weekend on the ticklish Saar issue.

Herr Blankenhorn saw both the United States Secretary of State, Mr John Foster Dulles, and the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Anthony Eden, and reliable sources said he also met today with Premier Pierre Mendes-France's No. 1 foreign adviser, M. Jean-Marie Soutou.

At their Big Three Meeting with M. Mendes-France yesterday, Mr Dulles and Sir Anthony had offered their countries' guarantees on the Saar agreement if France and Germany requested them.

The Council of Europe Ministers, observers said, decided their most helpful move would be to steer clear of the Saar completely until France and Germany had completed their delicate negotiations.

The resolutions on the Saar and the Big Four meeting were to be considered again at the next meeting of the Committee of Ministers next spring, after ratification of Western European Union.

EXTENSIVE DEBATE

After extensive debate on the problem of co-ordinating WEU and the Council of Europe, the Ministers decided to charge their deputies to start work immediately on a report for the spring meeting.

The report was to consider the actual working relationship among the Council of Europe, the WEU and such other European agencies as the OEEC and UNESCO.

Sir Anthony Eden, M. Mendes-France and Vice-Chancellor Franz Bluecher of West Germany — sitting in for Dr Adenauer, who was unable to come — all took part in the debate after a lengthy statement by the chairman, Mr Stephan Stephanopoulos, Foreign Minister of Greece.—United Press.



Paris streets are to be heated in winter, thanks to the commercial application of infra-red rays. A workman is seen here putting the finishing touches to the heaters of a well known shopping street near the Madeleine Church in the heart of Paris, and which will encourage Parisians to stop and admire Christmas window dressings. — France-Presse Photo.

Ex-Official Claims He Was Abducted

Berlin, Dec. 19.

A former West German defence official, Friedrich Wilhelm Heinz, has returned to West Berlin claiming he was abducted and held for three days at the Soviet headquarters in East Germany, the police reported tonight.

The police said Heinz claimed that one of his former staff had "abducted" him to East Berlin last Wednesday. He was taken to Soviet headquarters at Karlshorst, a Berlin suburb, but released three days later.

The police said they were still checking Heinz's statement and could give no further details until investigations were completed.

Heinz, a former Lieutenant-Colonel in the German army, led the counter intelligence section of the West German defence office until September 1953, when he resigned, supposedly after a controversy with Otto John, former chief of the West German office for the protection of the Constitution, who defected to East Germany this year.—Reuter.

Hammarskjold Honoured

Stockholm, Dec. 20.

Mr Dag Hammarskjold, United Nations Secretary-General, will be installed as the 18th member of the Swedish Academy today, joining the distinguished group which chooses the annual winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Mr Hammarskjold is replacing his father in the



MR HAMMARSKJOLD

Academy—the Hjalmar Hammarskjold who died last year.

The elder Hammarskjold was conservative Prime Minister of Sweden during the first world war.

Today's ceremony will be held by candle-light in the 200-year-old Academy building in Stockholm's "Old Town."—Reuter.

Concubine Entitled To Compensation

Paris Dec. 20.

The French Appeals Court has ruled that as long as a mistress helped her lover with his work, she was entitled to compensation if he broke off the liaison, in the same way as an employee wrongfully dismissed.

The court was upholding the decision of a Rabat (Morocco) court which awarded what it called the "concubine" of a Moroccan industrialist 150,000 francs (£150) damages after he had terminated a 17-year-old affair.

The woman was the industrialist's chief collaborator and looked after his factory in her lover's absence. She claimed compensation for 17 years of professional as well as personal devotion.

The Appeal judges found that the "concubine" had enriched her lover without receiving any remuneration. — China Mail Special.

Warriors Not Popular

Tokyo, Dec. 19.

Tokyo spinsters are averse to marrying members of Japan's new armed forces. Most of them dislike the idea of marrying a man who might go to war.

The Tokyo Marriage Consultation Office said that young women now seeking mates preferred salaried workers with regular incomes, even if the income was not too great.

The office said that on an average two women sought husbands to every man looking for a wife. The average age of the women was about 20 and of the men 28-29.—Reuter.

PLANES COLLIDE IN MID-AIR: TWO KILLED

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 19.

Two light planes collided over a suburban area of Lincoln today and two persons were killed when one of the planes crashed near a residential area.

An 18-year-old pilot making his first solo flight safely landed the second aeroplane at the City's Union Airport.

The authorities said 35-year-old Stephen Millett, a Lincoln flight instructor, was piloting the plane which crashed. Millett and 26-year-old Richard Pankhurst, student pilot, were killed.

However, 18-year-old Terry Edwards of Lincoln, soloing for the first time, got his damaged plane safely back to earth.

The police said the two planes had just taken off in the same direction from parallel runways at the airport. The Millett plane circled and struck the landing gear on Edwards' plane. The Millett plane crashed and burned in a large vacant lot, after just clearing the Burlington Railroad shops. It fell short of a residential area and no one on the ground was injured.—United Press.

New York Crash

New York, Dec. 19.

Navy divers recovered the body of a young girl from the wreckage of an Italian airliner on the bottom of Jamaica Bay today and pulled it to shore through a floating litter of the scraps of Christmas packages the plane's passengers had brought from Europe.

The divers also found a major section of the torn DC-6-B but were forced by safety hazards to abandon their search for more bodies until tomorrow.

Before fears arose that the jagged edges of the plane's fuselage would cut the divers' air hoses, they found the body of a girl believed to be about 12 years old.

That brought to nine the number of bodies recovered. The total stood at six survivors and 26 dead in yesterday's crash of the LAI Airlines plane, which careened off a landing-light jetty and crashed and burned while the pilot tried for the fourth time to land at Idlewild International Airport in a rainstorm.

The plane, one of the largest in commercial service, had flown from Rome, via Milan, Paris and Boston, without incident when disaster struck.

The body found today was fully clad and had a gold chain around the throat. Police said the girl had not been burned in the fire that engulfed the plane as it sank out of sight 1,200 feet from the end of the runway.

Among the debris that floated to the surface of the Bay was a cap that belonged to one of the 10 crew members, all of whom were killed. Mail, gaily decorated parcels and Christmas candy wrappers also surfaced and drifted toward shore. Postal inspectors armed with rakes sorted the soggy mess to see if anything could be salvaged.

LARGE PART

Before divers found a large part of the plane on the bottom, they managed to bring up a crumped, jagged chunk of metal about 10 feet long. One of the 12 divers came up with a photograph of an Italian soldier, perhaps a relative of one of the passengers. He also found a strip of what seemed to be the plane's lining.

Police guarded the wreckage and debris that had been recovered so Government investigators would have every possible clue to the cause of the crash when they start investigation.—United Press.

Famous Polish Actor Dies

London, Dec. 19.

Ludwik Solski, the greatest Polish actor of the century, died in Cracow today, Warsaw radio announced tonight.

In March Solski celebrated his 100th birthday, and the 80th anniversary of his career as an actor, by playing a role in "Big Fish" at the Slowacki Theatre, Cracow.

"Ludwik Solski belongs to the masters of the Polish stage," said the radio in a tribute to the actor.

Until recently, Solski insisted on learning new parts, and occasionally directed a play.

He saw three revolutions in theatre lighting. He remembered tallow candles being supplanted by petroleum lamps, then came gas and lastly electricity.

In March, the Polish news agency reported that when Solski celebrated his 100th birthday, the Rector of Cracow University conferred on him the honorary title of "Doctor."—China Mail Special.

Party Members Go Capitalistic

London, Dec. 20.

Party members in rural villages in East China have acquired "capitalist" ideas and engaged in various forms of exploitation, according to the Communist Shanghai newspaper, Liberation Daily.

It said in Shantung Province, a number of rural Party members, unwilling to perform labour, preferred to make loans at exoribitant rates of interest, to contract forward purchases of crops at low prices, to hire labourers, rent land and to hoard grain and other farm products for sale at high prices.

Of the 106 Party members in Pohsing County in the same province, 48 had the "wrong" idea that "having repaid the Party with good services" since the "success of the Revolution," they could retire from politics. Thirty-one per cent of the Party members in a village-group in Laihai County chose to attend to their own business and gave up Party work altogether, the paper complained.—China Mail Special.

Soviet Navy Studies Atheism

Moscow, Dec. 19.

The Soviet navy studies "scientific atheism" while at sea, the newspaper Soviet Fleet reports. Shipboard lectures are given on scientific themes in an attempt to prove to the sailors that religion is "superstitious". The talks are usually followed by films on the same theme.

In Leningrad, the Zhdanov University has opened a special seminary on scientific and atheistic propaganda. The newspaper Leningrad Pravda reported that "the greatest scientists of Leningrad" had been enlisted to lecture.—Reuter.

Graf Spee Captain's Son Avenged Father's Death

Buenos Aires, Dec. 19.

To avenge the death of his father, the Commander of the Graf Spee, his son, in a one-man submarine, blew the locks of Antwerp and perished in his mission, the Commander's widow reported today.

According to the widow of Captain Hans Langsdorff, Commander of the pocket battleship, the son avenged his father's death exactly, one year after he committed suicide in Buenos Aires, on December 20, 1939.

Frau Ruth Langsdorff and fraulein Ingebord Langsdorff, the widow and daughter of the German skipper, paid tribute today to his memory in the German cemetery of Buenos Aires, where they placed a wreath on the tomb of the Commander of the Graf Spee, while members of the crew which decided to remain in Buenos Aires, kept one minute of silence.

The ceremony was attended by German Ambassador, Hermann Terdenge and members of the German community.

FROM GERMANY

Frau Langsdorff and Ingebord, 17, arrived recently in Buenos Aires from Germany, to attend the ceremonies.

"My son was 17 years old when he learned about Hans' death," said Frau Langsdorff. "He immediately volunteered in the Navy and was assigned to the battleship Tirpitz as midshipman, when the Tirpitz was sunk, Johann Joachim, my son, asked to man a vest-pocket submarine and his wish was granted."

"On the anniversary of his father's death, December 20, 1940, he blew with his submarine the Antwerp locks and died on the spot," added Frau Langsdorff.—United Press.

Japs Tighten Security Regulations

Tokyo, Dec. 20.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry has tightened its security regulations since a former member of the Russian Mission here alleged that Japanese Government officials, including some from the Ministry, had passed confidential information to the Mission.

The allegation was made by former M.V.D. (Russian Secret Police) Colonel Yuri A. Rastvorov, who was given asylum by the United States after defecting from the Mission in January of this year.

Ex-Foreign Minister Katsuo Okazaki issued an order after the incident reminding Foreign Ministry employees that it was their duty to protect national secrets "at all costs."—China Mail Special.

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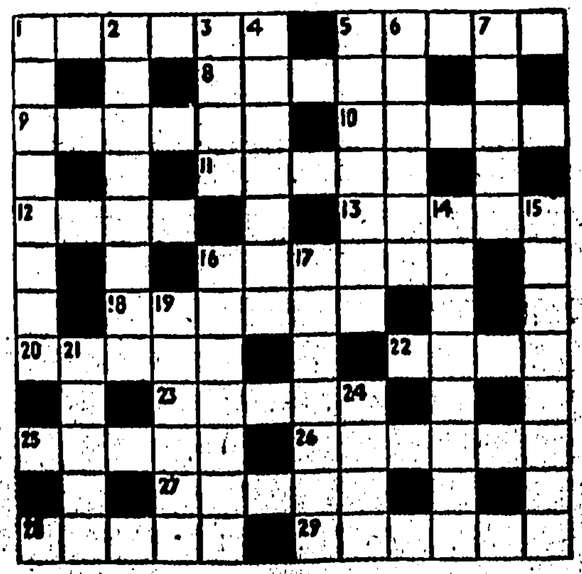
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A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1 Spanish lady (6).
5 Rescued (5).
8 Overturn (5).
9 Sword (6).
10 Wanderer (5).
11 Couch (5).
12 Snake-like fishes (4).
13 Experiments (5).
14 Gloomy (5).
15 Speaker (6).
20 Doctrine (5).
22 Uninteresting (4).
23 Dish of raw vegetables (5).
24 Sober (5).
25 Sunburnt (6).
27 Birds (5).
28 Dialogue (5).
29 Protect (6).

DOWN

1 N.C.O. (8).
2 French emperor (8).
3 Regretted (4).
4 Fruit (7).
5 Legislator (7).
6 Makes reparation (6).
7 Precise (5).
14 Unbroken series (8).
15 Private (8).
16 Bullfighter (7).
17 Revolves (7).
19 Dwelt (5).
21 Praise (5).
24 Rash (4).

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

By Robert L. May





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Stylette Models

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"'Amazing mild for December—we'll dress to suit the weather,' he says. It's raining cats and dogs out here."

London Express Service

The Clan MacThomas

By J. W. TAYLOR

THERE was a lot of tartan and tweed at the Liverpool exhibition of Highland industries, but neither at this exhibition nor anywhere else in the world outside his family could you find a tartan like that on the kilt of Mr Robert Thoms, an Edinburgh businessman. It is the tartan of the Clan MacThomas. Never heard of it? Why, it is reckoned to be 600 old and one of the most ancient clans in all Scotland's history.

If your name happens to be Thom, Thoms, or MacThomas; McCombie or McComie (Gaelic variations meaning "son of Thomas") or even just plain Jock Thomson (so long as it is not spelt with a foreign "p" in it), you might be eligible for membership of the MacThomas Clan. At the moment, the only other MacThomas kilt in existence besides the one belonging to Mr Thoms is in possession of his son Mr Patrick Thoms, who lives in England and is heir of the 20th chieftain of the clan, Mr Alfred Thoms, now well over 80 and living in Edinburgh.

Examination of the "pedigree" of the clan shows that the first chieftain was Thomas, son of Angus VI, chief of the Clan MacIntosh. Thomas broke away and formed his own clan in 1345.

It's a GIRLS' WORLD in the hotel for women



EVE PERRICK opens her Skyscraper Scrapbook

But here's an odd one out



CAN YOU SPOT THE GIVE-AWAY IN THE GIRLS-ONLY TEA QUEUE?

"IT'S a Woman's World," coincidentally and currently the title of one of the hit songs there, is the label that automatically follows that other catchphrase, "The American Way of Life."

For, as we all know by now, America is the one and only country which really caters for women. And New York is the city which caters for them best.

So in New York there is a not-so-small hotel which is exclusively a woman's world. A chocolate brown green-trimmed 22-storeyed building on the corner of 63rd Street and Lexington Avenue in mid-Manhattan — name, the Barbizon — 686 rooms containing 700 women, and not a man in sight above the mezzanine floor.

Six-hundred-and-eighty-six home-from-homes (at £7 to £12 a week per room) for the girls who pour into New York from all over America to seek fame, fortune, or just a job.

But whatever they seek, if they are going to do the hunting from the Barbizon, they need three references — two character and one social — to get in.

Off the peg

ANYWAY, there they all are — a hen-run of secretaries, students, starlets and saleswomen borrowing each other's clothes, sharing dates and pulling each other to pieces in the usual girlish way.

The American career girl (that is, the girl who earns her own living, as opposed to the girl who lives on her husband's income) is a fascinating study.

She eats at drugstores or automats when alone (a hamburger and coffee repast costs her about 5s.), occasionally treats herself to a two-dollar (14s.) dinner.

Her boy friend is inclined to work things so that he calls for her *after* dinner—or cooks her a spaghetti meal in his apartment. (No cooking is allowed in the Barbizon rooms—against fire regulations).

She goes to the cinema about once a week, a theatre half a dozen times a year (when she's taken), uses the free tickets to a TV show she gets from the through a friend in the trade.

She buys her working clothes (skirts, jerseys, shirts and plain, dark dresses made of wool-like synthetic fabrics) off the peg at about £7 an outfit, but usually has her date-dresses made for her — or gets them wholesale through a friend in the trade.

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She goes to the cinema about once a week, a theatre half a dozen times a year (when she's taken), uses the free tickets to a TV show she gets from the hotel receptionist towards the end of the week.

She talks about men, movies, and modes, and her favourite adjective to describe all three subjects is "darling."

Which, apart from that old and oft established fact that she is better-groomed, more poised, and much more independent, from her British counterparts.

Every afternoon in the hotel-for-women tea is served to light organ music and girlish chatter. It seemed the right time and place in which to observe the American career girl—to find out how she dresses, where she eats, what she talks about, and where she comes from.

Sample sextet under survey, starting on the left with the obvious odd girl out (that hair-do cardigan, and print dress give you away every time):—

Jane Dunphie, 22, from London, England, job-hunting round the diplomatic belt of New York.

Jeal Peltier, 26, from New Bedford, Mass., secretary to a charity organisation.

Prudy Wise, 24, from Jacksonville, Florida, fan mail secretary to film star Grace Kelly.

Rosalee Shay, 24, from Baltimore, Maryland, a model who got her start posing for a girl fashion artist who also lives at the hotel.

Nancy MacLachlan, 20, who worked in TV in Detroit and is now trying to do the same thing in the big city.

Betty Thomas, 30, a refugee from the family restaurant in Grasonville, Maryland, trying to break into modelling, "and get it out of my system before I go back to the restaurant."

It's a dream world, really, the Barbizon. In their rooms—fairly small, almost Spartan, but each containing a print in the French Impressionist style, and a radio loudspeaker working from a master set — the girls remember that once upon a time, when they, too, were young unknowns, Grace Kelly, Gene Tierney, and Dorothy McGuire lived there.

Pushing up

FOR those young ladies not above giving their dreams of glory a push upwards, by way of a little practical preparation, music studios with pianos can be hired for £2 10s., and hanging space in the art gallery is free for all potential painters and sculptors.

Naturally, all those girls together make the place popular with the younger men about town.

One of their favourite, certainly most inexpensive, pastimes is to sit in the lobby amid the feminine flurry and flow and try to guess their occupations as the girls go rushing by.

No man—unless he is father, doctor, or clergyman to one of the inmates and armed with a special house-pass—can get on to a bedroom floor. Boy friends merely qualify for an elevator-pass, which gets them as far as the tea-lounge on the first floor.

But that hanging about in the lobby is not without its dangers to the girls who keep their beaus waiting too long. As one of them pointed out with all those women waiting by it's safer to dress at the double and get down there quickly just in case he sees someone else he rather likes the look of.

* *Spending power of about £9 to £18 here.*

A Marquis And His Mushrooms

From Robin Stafford

Paris.

THE Marquis who grew mushrooms is a peaceful man of ancient lineage. But he has one thing on his mind.

For fourteen years he has worried about bombs — or, rather, how to get rid of them.

Last week the problem of the Marquis Marc de Vives reached a climax. He was accused of stealing bombs before a court at Vendome, a little town near Orleans.

The bombs, the court was told, once belonged to the RAF, who had dumped them in the Marquis' mushroom-growing caves when they hurriedly quit France in 1940. The caves, in the Valley of Loire, provided only a temporary hiding place. But even the Germans did not want them, and they walled up the caves rather than waste time disposing of them.

STILL THERE

At the end of the war, the bombs were still there, safe and sound.

The Marquis, anxious to get on with his mushroom-growing—his sole means of support, about £2,000 a year—asked the local police to take them away.

The police directed him to headquarters. Headquarters passed him on to the Ministry of National Defence. The Ministry of National Defence sent him to the Air Ministry. The Air Ministry solemnly ruled: "It is a job for the local police."

"We must act," said the police. And they discovered that some wartime Resistance men had broken down one of the cave walls to seek a hiding place. So the police promptly built it up again, separating the Marquis from his mushrooms altogether.

The Marquis sued the State for £15,000 damages. He was, after all, losing £2,000 a year because he couldn't grow mushrooms.

A man from the Ministry came down to count the bombs. Horrified, he found some were missing. "A thief has been here," he cried. And the Marquis was accused.

In court, the Marquis' lawyer admitted that his noble client had indeed sold a few bombs for scrap.

UNANSWERED

"O'hers have been stolen by scavengers," he added passionately, "actually my client has done the public, and particularly the scavengers, a good service by getting rid of some of these dangerous devices."

The State, ignoring this logic, maintained that it would cost £8,000 to take the bombs away and dispose of them. And it declined responsibility because they were abandoned by the British and therefore belonged to no one.

"But then how can my client be accused of stealing them if they belonged to no one?" cracked back the Marquis' lawyer.

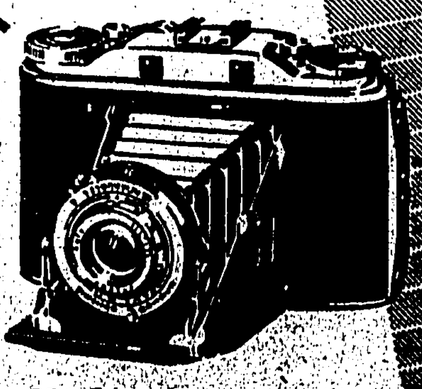
That was a question that the court could not answer. So the magistrates adjourned for a month to ponder the case of the Marquis and the mushrooms.

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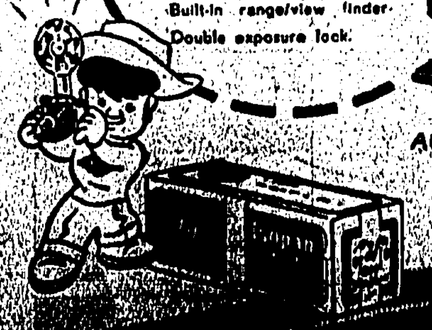
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NO BLARNEY, MR MACCOLL? YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD!

BY JILL DOGGETT

WHAT, no blarney! Fie, Mr MacColl. You should have heard the creamy barefaced blarney we lapped up one cold December night in an old Irish pub. Oodles of it.

My husband and I spent a short leave in the Emerald Isle just before Christmas several years ago.

As we tramped in the twilit countryside, chilled by the piercing winds and the melancholy beauty of the sombre landscape, we were attracted by the glow and cheerful sounds from an old country inn.

Receiving an exuberant welcome, we were soon installed in the commodious chimney corner before a [illegible] sparking [illegible] pint of porter and a nip of John Jamieson, which we chose to drink in the vernacular.

"Could you be telling me the time," cajoled a thirsty old scrounger, sidling up to us. "What a wonderful thing it is now, to be having education, and a knowledge of the world. While a poor creature like myself, never knows where his next drop is coming from. The likes of you, fine set up couple that you are, with coins jingling in your pocket and maybe money in the bank on the top of it all, too-ya. Never to know what is in store for you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

He swiftly pocketed the price of a Guinness and joined his cronies for a bit of a crack at the bar.

Harsher accents, with even more subtle wit, of the Belfast business men, were heard from the centre table. Lancashire cotton brokers were being entertained with a story of the shipyards.

"Pat and Mick had stopped for their elevenses," recounted the speaker.

"And what have you for your piece today?" asked Mick. "Sure I have bread and honey. You're lucky now, where do you get the honey? Oh, I have it sent over from the old country. I have a few hives of bees at home, and when I go home in the morning, I let them out, and away they go to the Botanic Gardens and they do rightly." "Now I know you are codding. The Botanic Gardens do not open until eight o'clock in the morning."

"Och, you're away behind the time, during the war, they took the gates away."

As we left the pub we knew that the Belfast brokers would sell their linen to the Manchester cotton merchants.

Relating the memories of the Irish visit to an Ulsterman now residing in Hongkong, he replied with a whimsical twinkle in his eye. "Now there was an old lady struggling to get a large bundle on to a Belfast train. The conductor stood watching her [illegible] for several moments and then observed [illegible]

• JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Crying Won't Help Your Bridge Game

By OSWALD JACOBY

TODAY'S hand caused a slight disturbance when it was played in a famous club. West complained and got a certain amount of sympathy, none sincere.

West opened the three of spades, fearing that a heart opening would give declarer a vital trick. South won with the ace of spades in order to preserve a spade entry to dummy later on.

Then South thought a bit about the club situation. If he led the ace of clubs and captured only small cards, he would have to lead the king of clubs and depend on a 2-2 break in the suit. But if West happened to drop the queen or the jack of clubs on the first round of the suit, declarer would then have to guess whether to bang down the other top club or whether to get to the dummy with a spade and try a finesse in clubs.

As this problem engrossed him, South "nervously" fidgeted with his cards, accidentally placing the king of spades next to the ace of clubs. Then he led

NORTH	30
♠ Q J 10	
♥ 10 5	
♦ K J 8 7 3	
♣ 8 6 3	
WEST	EAST
♠ 8 7 4 3 2	♠ 6 5
♥ A J 9 8 2	♥ Q 6 4 3
♦ 9 5	♦ A Q 10 6
♣ J	♣ Q 7 2
SOUTH (D)	
♠ A K 9	
♥ K 7	
♦ 4 2	
♣ A K 10 9 5 4	

East-West vulnerable.

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
2 N.T.	Pass	3 N.T.	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead—♠ 3

the ace of clubs, dropping the jack from the West hand. This was exactly the situation South had feared.

Declarer scooped in the trick and instantly led the king of spades. West had been expecting a club continuation, and he was deceived by the speed, his expectation, and the fact that the spades are every bit as black as the clubs. He thought that South had led the king of clubs, so he discarded the nine of hearts.

"No spades, partner?" East asked sharply.

West started in surprise, looked at declarer, and found a look of complete understanding on that gentleman's face. West had to play a spade on the trick, of course, but that didn't bother him. He had made it absolutely clear that he had been ready to discard on a second club round.

South naturally led his low spade to dummy's queen and returned a club for a finesse. He easily made six clubs and three spades, fulfilling his contract. If he had misguessed the club situation the defenders would have beaten him badly with heart and diamond tricks.

West howled and howled about sharp practice, but South mildly observed that he had the right to lead the king of spades if he felt like it. Everybody at the club snickered . . . and everybody wondered whether or not West did have the right to complain.

CARD Sense

Q—With neither side vulnerable, the bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1 Spade	2 Clubs	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	?	

You, South, hold: Spades K-8-3-2, Hearts Q-6-5, Diamonds J-7-3-2, Clubs 5-3. What do you do?

A—Bid three spades. You have 6 points in high cards, 1 point for the king of partner's bid suit, and 1 point for the doubleton—a total of 8 points including good trump support. You might have raised to two spades at your first turn, but having passed then you must jump raise now to show your true strength. North will know that your strength is limited by the fact that you passed before.

TODAY'S QUESTION

The bidding is the same as in the question just answered. You, South, hold: Spades K-8-3-2, Hearts 9-5-3-2, Diamonds J-7-5-3, Club 4. What do you do?

Answer Tomorrow

BY THE WAY

By Beachcomber

WOULD that I had been at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York last week when, on the occasion of excerpts from "Pagliacci" and other operas, a man in a black beard and a turban said he was from New Delhi, and dealt in bullion. As all this was being televised, how could anyone complain? I like to think of the Crazy Gang at Covent Garden, and I can see Bud Flanagan, dressed as an Arab camel driver, stepping between Lohengrin and Elsa of Brabant and asking if either of them would like some old iron.

Pharmbutta

I NOTICE that Snibbo has put on the market the "Margarine to end all margarines." It is called Pharmbutta. One ounce of this rich, fresh, dainty, succulent food contains 637,000 units of bicarbonated oxyllium, which is 71,730 more units to the ounce than the freshest butter obtainable. Pharmbutta is produced in a thatched Snibbo factory, with oak-beams, ale-benches, settles, and all the genuine old English atmosphere. The chemists wear smocks, and gramophone records of lowing cows help to create the impression of a busy day on the farm.

Two greedy girls

"WAITER! The menu!" greedily they cried.
When they had munched their way through seven courses,
The attentive waiter, standing at their side
Politely put the carte before the horses.

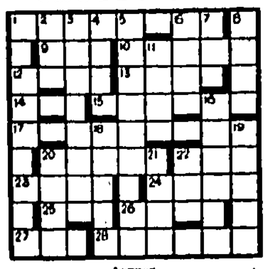
In passing

THOSE who never stop saying that if only Russia and England would play games together, the atmosphere of friendliness would be almost cloying, must be feeling pretty stupid. At the moment it is only at games that ill-feeling breaks out, because we are always beaten. What is the good of songs and dances at a political party in Peking, and an exchange of flowers to be pressed in books of verse, if we have the bad luck ("the sun was in our fellows' eyes") to be beaten by a Chinese team at cricket.

Operation Progress

PIGEON-HOLED in an office in Whitehall is Operation Progress, an emergency plan to be put into force when the traffic of London comes to a complete standstill. The plan provides for the immediate banning of all streets to pedestrians, so that the jammed cars, lorries, and buses can be moved sideways on to the pavements, and, if necessary, into shops and offices. This will clear the streets for the police cars, and permit the police to prepare a report on what they see.

CROSSWORD



Across
1. It makes fine feathers! (4, 4)
9. Partner for Bill. (3)
10. Golden one takes you abroad. (5)
12. "O, that this too, too solid flesh would ——" (Hamlet). (4)
13. Reeling one led Chesterton to Beachy Head. (4)
14. Look into this. (3)
15. The tents are in the middle of the ship. (6)
17. First war soldiers sang its praises. (9)
20. Make love to pounds and shillings. (5)
22. There's a bit of mock impatience in the expression. (3)
23. Coils minus the first hundred. (4)
24. It's capital for the Peruvians. (4)
25. "Before the Romans came to ——"—see 13 Across. (3)
26. It's a command in the Navy. (4)
27. It's three-fifths of the set-up. (3)
28. The evil beings start off like the last day, shortened. (6)

Down
1. Offensively self-assertive. (9)
2. It came floating by, mast high for the Ancient Mariner. (8)
3. A favourite gets jam on it. (8)
4. Polka girls? (4)
5. A nutty spot? (9)
6. The market goes back by this. (4)
7. This must have dropped many a brick. (8)
8. Be back . . . and we go inside. (6)
11. Wembley one is just a big noise. (4)
16. A book to teach yourself about type? (6)
18. Struck by the motley. (8)
19. Dancing open wears a Novello hit. (5)
20. This gutter is an interrupter. (4)
21. Cash customers push it here to fly their weight. (4)
22. Tree from the firm's books. (5)

Saturday's solution.



"I feel if I can't say something good about a person, I shouldn't say anything. And believe me, I keep my mouth shut about her!"

YOUR BIRTHDAY ... By STELLA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

BORN today you have a rather contradictory nature, one so full of contrasts that it is sometimes difficult to understand your swiftly moving moods. Your emotions are near the surface and you have to school yourself not to let them control your affairs. The other side of your nature calls for patient, analytical consideration of facts before making decisions. Consequently, there is always the tug between these two facets of your personality.

Self-confident and always quite sure of your own capabilities, your strong will will take you far in the career of your own choosing. Your interests are mainly in the sciences and mathematics, although there is definite talent in the constructive arts. You have a sensitive nature which you attempt to conceal beneath a blunt even gruff, exterior.

If you will learn not to deny your inner self, you will find far greater happiness in life. You are affectionate, but hesitate to show it. Also, remember that it is never beneath your dignity to listen to advice. Whether you follow it or not is up to you. But, at least you can listen to the other side of a story for the balanced view.

Among those born on this date are: William Hunt, noted statistician, Harvey Firestone, inventor and manufacturer; Stephen P. Duggan, diplomat; John T. Godman, naturalist; Irene Dunne, film star; Calvert Vaux, landscape artist.

To find what the stars have in store for you tomorrow, select your birthday star and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 22)—Personal affairs are excellently favoured, especially in the realm of love and romance. The home front is calm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—A fine day to promote a new idea. It should meet with the approval of your superiors.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—The goddess of love and beauty is smiling today. Make or receive that important proposal. It could be.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)—Special good fortune may be yours. Some personal ambition in connection with your career may be achieved.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)—You need to watch out for upsets today. Don't permit overoptimism to mar good judgment in important affairs.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)—You must not take chances today. Conservative action is to be preferred if you are to gain your point.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)—You may need plenty of courage and determination to overcome a tendency toward adverse conditions. Be careful.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)—If you must drive in heavy traffic, be constantly on your guard. Someone else may not be too careful!

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)—Be sure that you are not badly fooled on some project offered to you by a salesman with a lot of "sweet talk."

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)—An outburst of temper could only hurt your outlook for the day, which isn't too bright anyway!

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)—Most aspects are favourable but you must guard against being discontented—and probably without due reason.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)—A day of mixed conditions. Your own attitude can so emphasise the good aspects as to make proper use of them.

DUMB-BELLS



WOMANSENSE

Dior Cocktail Coat In Velvet

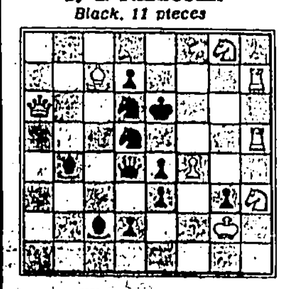


"Cortege," a pink velvet cocktail coat by Christian Dior.—Agence France-Presse.

CHESS PROBLEM

By E. PALKOSKA

Black, 11 pieces.



White, 8 pieces.

White to play: mate in two.

Solution to Saturday's problem:
1, Q—K1. 1 . . . Kt×P; 2, Q×KtP (ch); 1 . . . K×P; 2, Q×KP; 1 . . . P—Kt6; 2, P—B8 (ch); 1 . . . B—Kt7, B8; 2, Q×KP (ch).

Planning A Christmas Party For The Children

By Rhoda Dove

SOME mothers are just natural party-givers, others find it a dreadful strain, but whichever group we belong to—the time for children's parties has come round once more and we have to make out our plan of campaign.

The first and most important thing to remember is never, never to mix the age groups. Although it seems as obvious when you think about it, this simple rule is often broken.

"Jeremy and his little sister play so nicely at home," you will say, "It seems a pity not to invite her to David's party."

But however happily Jeremy, Susan and David may play together in normal times they won't mix at a party. After all—if David is eight, or even six, and Susan only three or four, then she will find the reading and guessing games too hard and probably be naughty to gain attention that way. If you put in some simple games for Susan, the older ones will be sure to win, so the result is the same and she won't enjoy herself at all.

☆

When you've decided what to play, make a list of games and pin it up somewhere in easy view so that you can refer to it in times of stress. A rough order of playing may help—say a sitting down game after a noisy one—but don't stick to it too slavishly if you think the party would go better if you skipped a few games.

If you possibly can, persuade, cajole or blackmail another adult into helping you run the party. Whenever possible, this should not be the parent of one of your guests. One solitary parent can make the best intentioned party into a failure, especially if her child gets a silly fit on. These are best and kindest dealt with by a stranger!

When you plan your games list, look at last year's list and include any which were a striking success. Then cross off any that didn't go down at all well and you will have the nucleus of a successful party. Plenty of old favourites like Musical Chairs and Oranges and Lemons are a "must," and a few, quiet words with the young fry will enable you to include their current favourites.

☆

A good plan is to open with some kind of pairing game. This can help to break the ice and if each child is, say, a Noah's Ark animal and has to find its mate, the children can join in as they arrive. With a little cunning, too, you can devise two or three teams to last the rest of the party.

When a new game is introduced, or a family favourite that some of the guests don't know, make quite sure that your instructions are simple and clear. Otherwise the losers may upset things with cries of "It's not fair! I didn't know what I had to do"—and then you'll have to begin all over again.

Opinion varies about prizes. If you have a Christmas tree and plan to give each child a present from that, a lot of other prizes can prove an expensive item.

Yet half the fun of a party is taking home a lot of loot, and a trip to one of the big stores is necessary to provide a host of small treasures which will do as prizes.

A pink sugar mouse, a whistle, a fat chocolate cigar or a tiny plastic tea set—what more could any child ask?

As the party goes on, watch the children carefully. Your list should have several extra games on it so that as soon as one seems to fall flat, another can be set afoot at once.

Sometimes the very young or the very shy don't want to join in, but don't press them for sometimes the very young aren't used to playing with other folk and need time to get used to the idea—while the very shy will feel even worse if you draw attention to their state.

My own small son assured me that he had a glorious time at his first Christmas party. All teatime he sat with wondering gaze, courteously refusing all offers of food. Throughout all the games he sat entranced—and when I arrived in the middle of a riotous game of balloon tennis I saw him sitting happily near the end of a row watching the others with fascinated gaze. He didn't touch the balloon once. He didn't even try to, in spite of their urgent cries of "Hit it, Jeremy!" but he was happy—too thoroughly happy to do more than watch.

Only one thing upset him about that party. When we got home he explained to me gravely "Jimmy's mother was ever so upset because I didn't eat any tea, but I wasn't hungry, really I wasn't, I was too happy to eat."

Food is important, of course. I always provide at least one plate of plain bread and butter and an unspiced sponge cake for the few who are sure to prefer it. Blancmange, in at least two flavours, is always popular and so is a fresh fruit salad.

☆

Christmas cake, iced or plain is a must, with Father Christmas on top, and a chocolate roll iced like a Yule log goes down well, too. But best of all, you will find, are plates and plates of savoury sandwiches. Ham, cheese, potted meat or fish paste all go as fast, and the echo of a really successful party can often be, "Mummy, I've won three prizes and we had ham sandwiches for tea."

One last word—if you have prizes—do make sure that everyone wins at least two!

BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

Mary-Jane is Left Outdoors

—She's Rescued by Blinky and Chippy—

By MAX TRELL

NO one in the Playroom had noticed that Mary-Jane the Rag Doll was not inside the house until everyone had gone off to bed. Then suddenly Hanid, the shadow-girl with the turned-about name, turned to her brother Knarf who was sitting next to her in a corner of the Playroom and said: "I wonder where she can be?"

"Who?" asked Knarf.

A Missing Doll

"Mary-Jane," said Hanid. "I haven't seen her since early this morning."

Instantly everyone in the Playroom began looking around for Mary-Jane.

Knarf and Hanid looked behind the sofa.

Mr Punch looked behind the chairs.

General Tin the Tin Soldier looked behind the bookcase.

Teddy the Stuffed Bear lifted up the carpet and looked under it, though it was quite certain she wouldn't be there.

All at once, Mrs Cuckoo opened the door of her clock to call out the time. On seeing everyone looking around, she said: "If it's Mary-Jane you're looking for, I can tell you just where she is, I watched her through the window. The children took her out into the garden early this morning. They sat her down under the maple tree, next to the garden wall. She's still there!"

Then Mrs Cuckoo went back into her clock, carefully shutting the door behind her.

Everyone was now quite upset.

An Emergency

Teddy the Stuffed Bear exclaimed: "Oh! She'll be out in the garden all night! She'll catch cold! We've got to get her back in the house! We've got to do something! We've got to do something! We've got to do—"

"It's all very well for you to keep on saying we've got to do something," General Tin interrupted Teddy sharply. "It would be a good deal more helpful if you knew what we could!"

"Now, now," Mr Punch interrupted. "This is no time to be quarrelling. We've got to get the poor dear back into the house somehow."

"Yes," said Hanid. "If it should ever start raining, Mary-Jane would just turn into a heap of wet rags."

Everyone agreed that this would be an awful thing for poor Mary-Jane.

Finally Knarf said: "We can't bring her into the house. All the doors and windows are shut. But I think I know how to get her into a safe place before it starts to rain."

Hardly had Knarf said this when it did begin to rain. Knarf went to the private telephone which hung on the wall behind the bookcase. He telephoned to Blinky Mole and Chippy Chipmunk who shared a large house just under the roots of the old apple tree.

Fortunately Blinky and Chippy were still awake. Knarf told them about Mary-Jane. "She's sitting out in the garden, under the maple tree, . . . and it's starting to rain!"

"Roger!" said Blinky. "We'll take care of her. Just you all go to sleep. We'll keep her as snug as a bug in a rug. Goodbye now."

A few minutes later Mary-Jane was in out of the rain. She slept comfortably all through the night on a moss-sofa in Blinky's guest bedroom. She slept so soundly she didn't even hear the patter of rain on the roof of the underground house.



Mrs. Cuckoo came out to call the time.

Very early the next morning, right after the sun had dried the ground, Blinky and Chippy brought Mary-Jane out again, putting her back in the very same spot where the children had left her the day before.

A Pleasant Surprise

And when the children came out for Mary-Jane later (after suddenly remembering that they had forgotten all about her!), they were amazed to find her looking fresh and bright and dry.

But how could they know that Mary-Jane hadn't spent the night out in the garden under the maple tree over near the garden wall, but in Blinky Mole and Chippy Chipmunk's guest bedroom deep under the ground where she had slept snugly as a bugly in a rugly!

Rupert at Greyrocks Cove—52



The Scoutmaster smiles at Rupert. "Goodbye, little bear," he says. "You and David have done a good job today. You must show us all the way into that cave. I wish you belonged to our troop!" And then (oops!) he bumps his head on the low roof of the cave.

"I do think what Uncle Bruno will say," he murmurs, "when he learns of all this. He cannot have imagined that his butterfly would lead to anything so thrilling as a concealed village like this!"

THE END

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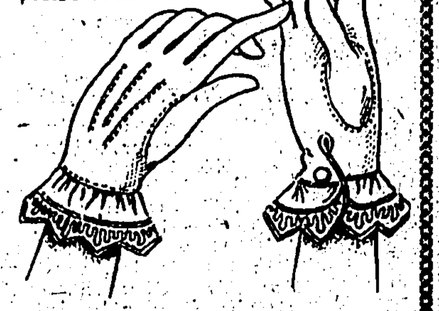
Those Special Gifts —

GIVE "HER" GLOVES THIS X'MAS

STYLISH FABRIC GLOVES By Milore in dusky pink, chamois, white, bottle, chartreuse, flag red, nigger, navy or black. All sizes $9.00 PAIR

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BOTH STORES OPEN UNTIL 7 P.M. DAILY THIS WEEK

Whiteaways HONGKONG & KOWLOON

KMB 6, ARMY 1

THREE MAGNIFICENT GOALS IN A GREAT KMB VICTORY

By I. M. MacTAVISH

According to all the critics this was to be one of the great events of the soccer season. Instead it turned out to be a one-horse race. KMB inspired by two great goals in the first 15 minutes, gave their best display of the season while whatever hopes the soldiers had of making a game of it disappeared when their much vaunted middle line collapsed.

Higgins, Ashworth and Walters never suggested that they were capable of controlling the razor-sharp KMB forwards and as a line they gave their worse showing of the season.

The Busmen were yards faster in physical speed and vital seconds faster in thought, and the spectators were left wondering how this inept Army side beat South China a few days earlier.

Whatever disappointment the big crowd felt about the one-sided nature of the encounter they must have taken away from Caroline Hill pleasant memories of three magnificent goals.

The first of these came in the 6th minute when Tang Yee-kit smashed a beautiful 18 yards angular drive into the corner of the net. This gave the Busmen the confidence they needed and eight minutes later Tang Sum untackled, carried the ball well upfield. From 25 yards he let go a real pile driver and it flew over Lewis' head and into the net.

These were, indeed, thrilling goals but in sheer spectacular grandeur they could not match the last one of the day.

Higgins moved the ball upfield and cross-passed it to Walters. He shouted and ran into position for the return pass but Walters elected to push it through to Middleton.

The ball was intercepted by Lam Kam-tong, with Higgins now badly out of position, it was slipped through to Lee Tai-fai who immediately flashed it away across field to Szeto Man. The inside-right raced round Hayes and from near the corner flag sent the ball screaming across the goal.

It looked as though it was travelling too fast for anyone to get to it, but Tang Yee-kit threw himself through the air and in some amazing way got his head to it and Lewis was beaten all ends up.

TURNING POINT

The Army will probably feel that the turning point of the match came just before the interval when a shocking blunder by Ashworth put the Busmen three ahead.

The centre-half intercepted a loose ball just outside the six-yards line. He had all the time in the world to clear the ball downfield or even to pass it to Hayes or Walters who were close by ...but for some inexplicable reason he suddenly turned round and whipped the ball back to his goalkeeper. Lewis was taken completely by surprise and the ball landed in the back of the net.

The soldiers never recovered from that blow and, although Walmsley did manage a goal which made the score 3-1 after 16 minutes of the second half, the side was woefully lacking in pace and ideas.

Tang Yee-kit and Szeto Man got two goals in two minutes and the game was over except for the pleasure of seeing Tang Yee-kit's wonder goal that finished the scoring.

It would be unfair to single out any man in the winners' side for special mention for they were in every sense a team. Each one of them turned in a top-class performance and the youngsters in the side were never overshadowed by the established stars.

Lewis in the Army goal played nervously and was not blameless for one or two of the goals. Wallace played like a Trojan at right back but Hayes had an indifferent game as his partner.

The greatest disappointment, however, was in the middle line where Higgins and Walters were listless and spiritless. Both were yards slow and were caught out of position time and again. Ashworth never got to grips with Tang Yee-kit and was obviously badly upset by his first-half error.

With little constructive service from behind the soldiers front rank never struck paying form.

Riley had some commendable first half tries at goal, but his failure to come back and help when his side was in trouble made him an expensive luxury in the side.

Walmsley was the most dangerous Army forward, but he never got enough of the ball, while Middleton, Morris and Stonehouse did far too much of their work at half-pace.

VERDICT: A great result for KMB. On this form they could well be Champions again ... and special thanks to Tang Yee-kit for the memory of that magnificent last goal ... I never want to see a better one.

The Teams:

KMB: Wai Fat-kim; Hung Hing-yuk, Szeto Yiu; Tang Sum, Lam Tim, Poon Kai-hung; Lau Chi-tam, Szeto Man, Tang Yee-kit, Lam Kam-tung, Lee Tai-fai.

Army: Lewis; Wallace, Hayes; Higgins, Ashworth, Walters; Stonehouse, Middleton, Morris, Riley, Walmsley.

S. CHINA 1, KITCHEE 1

If you like your football crafty, calculated and classic, this game at Caroline Hill on Saturday was not your cup-of-tea... but if you like it tense, tenacious and teethy then you would have had the time of your life.

There was a spot of something for everything in this Battle-of-the-Giants. There was a capacity crowd and trouble at one of the entrances. There were thrills, near misses, a couple of spectacular goals and a late disappointment for Kitchee fans when a goal was disallowed by referee Hancock... but the referee was absolutely correct in his decision.

This was much more like a cup-tie than a routine League match for while the play never reached a particularly high standard there was an abundance of action and incident.

The first half belonged to Kitchee, but South China had enough second half chances to win the game, although towards the end it was again Kitchee who looked most likely to score.

Both goals came in the first-half. Yiu Cheuk-yin put South China into a somewhat undeserved lead when he left Cheung Koon-hing helpless with a snap header, but crafty old Chu Wing-keung equalised with a brilliant goal a few minutes later when he headed spectacularly into the net.

Both defences turned in good displays and Kitchee owe their partial success to the effective work of Chan Fai-hung and Kwok Shek in stopping the dangerous inside forwards, Yiu Cheuk-yin and Ho Cheung-yau.

Kitchee forwards relied to a great extent on fast breakaways, but with their slick front line they were always dangerous when on the attack.

Ko Po-keung, Luk Tak-hai and Lee Yuk-tak were South China's best players although Pau King-yin looked happier than in recent games.

The teams:

South China: Pau King-yin; Lau Chi-ping, Lau Yee; Luk Tat-hay, Ko Po-keung, Chan Chi-kong, Chu Wing-wah, Ho Cheung-yau, Lee Yuk-tak, Yiu Cheuk-yin, Mok Chun-wah.

Kitchee: Cheung Koon-hing; Lee Ping-chiu, Liu Shiu-ping, Chan Fai-hung, Kwok Ying-kee, Kwok Shek, Ho Ying-fun, Kwok Yau, Lee Hung-kee, Chu Wing-keung, Hau Ching-to.

Referee: Hancocks.

Sports Diary

TODAY

Athletics

Queen Elizabeth School Annual Athletic Sports at South China Stadium Caroline Hill commencing at 4 p.m.

Badminton

Men's "A" Division: CYMCA "W" v HKU; Recreio v CYMCA "B". Ladies Doubles: CCC "Gr" v CCC "Y" YWCA v CYMCA

TOMORROW

Soccer

Div. I Sing Tao v Navy (Club) 4 p.m.

Meeting

Amateur Sports Federation and Olympic Committee Meeting SCM Post Board Room 5.30 p.m.

Badminton

Men's "C" Div. Y & O v CCC; Nav Bharat v HKU; CYMCA v Recreio.

PHOTOGRAPHS

by our Staff Photographers

Scouts Rally
Triangular Athletics
H.K. Singers Concert
St. Andrew's Church
C.M.U. Dinner Party
Treasury Department Party
Filipino Childrens' Party
Ricci Hall Dinner Dance
Hop Yat Church Oratorio
British Council Exhibition
Clementi School Speech Day
Police Parade at Happy Valley
12th Exhibition of Hongkong Products
Girl Guides at Elizabeth Youth Centre
St. Stephen's College Drama Competition
Kowloon Junior School Christmas Pantomime
H.K.U. Christian Association Concert
Junior Technical School Speech Day
Beating of Retreat at Sai Wan
St. Mary's School Prize Giving
Ricci Hall Jubilee Celebration
Y.W.C.A. X'mas Celebration
U.S.R.C. Gala X'mas Dance
D.C.S. Drama Competition
King's College Speech Day
R.H.K.D.F. Childrens' Party
Army Tennis Competition
Local Christenings
Local Weddings
All Local Sports
Children's Christmas Parties, etc. etc.

Available at
SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, LTD.

Portland State Cagers Here

Ten Portland State College basketball players, led by Mr Joe Holland, Athletic Director, flew in from Singapore by BOAC yesterday to play a series of games with local teams here.

In Singapore the team played 5 games and was said to be the best amateur team to visit there. They also played in Kuala Lumpur.

Their ages averaging 19 to 20 years, the cagers are mostly six-footers and over. John McIntyre is 6' 7". Only three members of the team are under six feet.

After their games here, the team will visit Manila, Taipei and Tokyo, before returning home.

Mr Dave Edwins, Manager of North West Airlines, met the team at the airport.

Now Russia Also Wants To Control European Tennis

Brisbane, Dec. 19.

Mr Gunnar Gallin, manager of Sweden's Davis Cup team, claimed last night that "Russia wants Europe to leave the Davis Cup and compete for a Championship of Europe with a perpetual trophy."

There was no immediate prospect of this happening, Mr Gallin added. "But it could do so in the future."

The Swedish team manager, speaking at the Queensland Lawn Tennis Association dinner, said earlier that the "under dog" tennis nations of Europe might withdraw from the Davis Cup unless they got more financial support from Australia and the United States.—Reuter.

W. Germany Beats Portugal 3-0

Lisbon, Dec. 19.

West Germany beat Portugal by three goals to nil after leading 2-0 at half-time in an international soccer match here today.—Reuter.

SPORTING SAM . . . . . By Reg. Wootton



PENTANGULAR TOURNEY

Standard Of Rugger Refereeing Must Be Tightened Up

By "PAK LO"

On Saturday afternoon at the Club ground in Happy Valley the first round of the Pentangular Tournament came to an end when the RAF overcame the Police by 11 points (1 try, 1 goal, 1 penalty goal) to nil, after which the Club struggled gamely but unsuccessfully against the powerful Army XV and finally lost to them by 11 points (2 tries, 1 goal,) to nil.

Elsewhere the Gunners in a hard fought game beat the Navy by 11 points to nil. A very popular score that afternoon it would seem.

Before commenting on the games this week I feel it is time that some remarks were passed on the standard of refereeing in the Colony this season. At every game I have attended so far there have been complaints on the touchline about the standard of refereeing.

This, of course, is not unusual. Everyone on the touchline considers himself a better judge of the game than the referee who is close up, or should be, to the incident.

However, the amount of complaints reaching my ears and also from personal viewing leaves no doubt that the standard MUST be tightened up in the near future.

For instance, in the first game on Saturday the referee apparently paid no attention to the knock-ons, and while there is the advantage rule and the fact that every referee tries to keep the game from bogging down, I feel that far too much leeway was allowed.

CASE IN POINT

The first try by the RAF was a case in point. As the ball passed along the three line I counted two knock-ons, and a forward pass. Allowing for the fact that I was at an angle to the forward pass and could be in error, the two knock-ons were very clear, and the game should have been stopped.

Instead the RAF were allowed to run through and score. As for offside round the scrum, that was a complete farce.

In the second game with O'Connor, the Colony's senior referee, the standard was very much better.

Certainly Reid was extremely lucky not to be pulled up at practically every scrum for feet up. But on the other hand Martin was more than lucky not to be penalised for offside around the scrums.

But, whatever the reason, I think many people will agree with me that poor refereeing pulls down the standard of the game and spoils it for the spectators, and I should like to see it tightened up all round before the next half of the Pentangular begins.

POLICE UNLUCKY

Now having said my say about referees I shall proceed to the games themselves. In the first game the Police were unlucky to lose and though they battered time and again into the RAF half they just could not find the finishing touch.

Logan played a grand game at full back, and cleared from many a dangerous spot. But the man who struck me as the best player on the field was Lamb. In the lineouts he was a tower of strength, and in the loose he shone far beyond any other forward on the field.

In the threes Gammon showed a nice turn of speed, while Eden, who like Davidson was playing his last game in the Colony, never looked happy in his wing three position.

The halves did not combine too badly, but their passing was rather slack at times. For the Police, Stevin was outstanding and showed a terrific burst of speed which often left the RAF backs far behind.

Lloyd, though he played well, seemed more subdued than usual, while Perry and Todd led some nice forward rushes and were the best two forwards in the Police side.

The RAF kicked off and after a short tussle got possession of the ball and raced off for the Police line. Then the Police, who by now have one of the best defensive sides in the Colony, brought them up with a round turn and sent them back to their own half. The play ranged back and forth between the two 25s and then Stevin got the ball from a lineout on the half way and went right through the RAF pack with a glorious run, and with only ten yards to go passed out.

The pass was knocked on and the RAF cleared upfield to the Police 35-yard line. There the ball came out to the RAF threes and Gammon went tearing down the wing, and then passed in for Fraser to score. The conversion was missed 3-0. (For comments on this try see above).

The Police pressed and on the RAF 25 Carpenter narrowly missed a long penalty kick, and the RAF touched down.

With the RAF clearing into their opponents' half the half time whistle sounded. The Police deserved to score in this half as they forced their way through the RAF defence time and again, but invariably Logan was there to stop them.

The RAF attacked immediately in the second half and after a minute were awarded a penalty, but missed badly. The Police took the ball from an RAF three fumble and Dawson kicked ahead and followed up fast, but the Airmen just managed to touch down in time.

Again the RAF forced their way back upfield to the Police 25 where they were awarded a penalty for offside, and Davidson converted to make it 6-0.

Slowly the RAF took over, and despite an obvious territorial advantage never looked really dangerous. Even with a scrum on the Police five-yard line they failed to score, and it was not until the closing minutes of the game that they scored again.

One the Police 35-yard line the RAF got a penalty and Davidson took the kick. The ball hit the upright and bounced back into play and Lamb, following up fast, gathered and before the Police had recovered their wits had scored near the posts. Davidson converted. 11-0.

CLUB V. ARMY

In the second game Eve returned to Colony rugger, but instead of playing his usual position replaced Thomas, who was injured, at wing forward. I expect next time he plays he will be back as Army hooker again.

The Army were far superior in almost every department, though Talamo for the Club shone in the lineouts. The Club three line looked a lot happier than they have done for many a day, and credit must be given to the trio of Henderson, Turville, and Watson.

Rumour has it that even Roy De Rome will be returning to the centre three position in the New Year. Stone played a much improved game throughout, and deserves another chance.

Petrie also was good but the Club are short of another good wing forward at present. Martin is coming on but he must pay more attention to the offside rule.

The Club kicked off and the Army immediately attacked with a nice three move, which after a kick ahead found them on the Club one-yard line. From the loose maul the ball was heeled to the Army and went across the field to Edwards who, finding himself unmarked, crossed the line well out. The conversion was missed. 3-0.

The Club returned to the fray and were soon on the attack, but the covering of the Army backs was too much for them, and a good three move took the Army downfield again, then Eve took it on at his feet to the Club 25.

The Club won and cleared to half way, won the lineout and a bad pass was knocked on and picked up by Eve who raced through to the Club 15-yard line. Then the ball went loose, but Ingall picked it up and raced through to score well out. The conversion was missed. 6-0.

The Army kept up the pressure, but Petrie, covering up, stopped one or two good moves in time with some nice tackling. Then Brentford, playing his usual sparkling game, went off on his own, was tackled and slung out a long pass, which was snapped up by Owen, but as the threes were almost through they passed forward, and what looked like a score turned but to be a scrum.

The Club won and cleared upfield. With the play mostly in the Club half the Club defence somehow held out.

There was one bad spot when the Army threes were going strongly, but they bunched up and as a result knocked on. Again the Army threes were sent off from the Club 25 and Ingall was tackled just as he dived for the line. He hit the corner flag, however, with what sounded like a nasty thump, but was able to carry on.

The Army attacked at the beginning of the second half. First Ingall nearly got through from a three move, then Brentford tried to go through on his own but was quickly halted. Then the threes were sent off again and Edwards, neatly sold a dummy, out-ran the rest of the opposition to score in the corner. Owen with a lovely long kick converted to make it 11-0.

The Army after this took things easier, but the Club never looked like scoring. They had some good forward rushes, but the Army, with Patterson much in evidence, cleared easily.

The Club threes also came more into their own and held off all the other attacks which were made by the Army. With the Army still attacking the game ended.

With this clear cut win the Army now lead comfortably in the Pentangular Tournament and must now be considered far and away the most likely to take the title this season.

THE TEAMS

Police: Forsyth, Nash, Marsh, Scott, McNiven, Stevin, Lloyd, Shelly, Colborne, Harris, Perry, Todd, Dawson, Carpenter, Bryan.

RAF: Logan, Gammon, Fraser, Davidson, Eden, Taylor, Smith, Pugsley, Sleeman, Miller, Lamb, Griffiths, Davies, MacDonald, Woolf.

Club: Stoker, Ewart, Stone, Watson, Morrison, Turville, Henderson, Slack, V. Russell, Rogers, Talamo, Hargroves, Martin, Armstrong-Wright, Petrie.

Army: Patterson, Edwards, Owen, Blincoe, Ingall, Brentford, Parkinson, Bevan-Thomas, Reid, Beith, Chisholm, Ferry, Hill, Coulthurst, Eve.

HOW THEY STAND

Here is the scoreboard at the end of the first round.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Army	4	4	0	0	57	14	8
RAF	4	2	1	1	32	14	5
Club	4	2	0	2	16	30	4
Navy	4	1	1	2	17	22	3
Police	4	0	0	4	3	45	0

INTER-UNIT

During the preceding week the Land Forces Inter-Unit Competition was partly played off. Here are the results so far:

First Round

20 Field Rgt. beat 6 COD 8-3.
25 Field Rgt. beat RAMC 22-5.
1st King's beat HQLF 3-0.

Second Round

27th Lt. Bty R.A. beat 7 Hussars 22-0.
RASC beat H.K. Sig. Rgt. 9-6.
14 Field Rgt. RA drew with North Staffs 3-3.
72 LAA beat 37 Med. Rgt. RA 38-5.
20 Field Rgt. RA beat Dist. Wksps. REME 16-3.
1st King's beat 25 Field Rgt. RA 9-6.

The following games of the Second Round are still to be played off:—

173 Locating Bty R.A. v. 27th HAA, RA.
24 Field Eng. Regt. v. 1st King's Own.
14th Field Rgt. RA v. North Staffs (replay).

The finalists of this competition will play the winners of the Malayan-Singapore Inter-Unit Tournament. This game will again be held in Hongkong, of which more anon.

LEAGUE CRICKET

Craigengower Surprise Army North

By "GOOGLY"

Craigengower Cricket Club again caused a major upset in the First Division Cricket League match played on Saturday by defeating the strong Army North team by five wickets. Last week the Happy Valley Club registered a win over Recreio.

The man responsible for the defeat of Army was once again George Souza who knocked up a sparkling 108 not out. Army batted first and collected a large score of 174 runs for five wickets declared.

George Souza was batting confidently when CCC needed four runs for victory in the last over of the match. He waited patiently and connected a square cut to the boundary to gain the four points for his club.

Over on the mainland at Cox's Path, Kowloon Cricket Club just managed to gain a last minute victory over RAF and beat them by seven wickets.

The Airmen were sent in to bat first and made 131 runs. The home team's batsmen played steadily against the strong RAF attack. KCC kept the large crowd present in suspense, racing against the clock, and just managed to gain a last minute victory.

Recreio, after the rude shock they received from CCC, redeemed themselves by defeating the Optimists by four wickets at King's Park.

Gerry Gonsano carried his bat for 77 runs and paved the way for his team's victory. "Rory" MacPherson was top scorer for Optimists with 29.

The two top teams in the Junior Division, Army and RAF, drew their match played at Kai Tak. RAF were lucky to hold the Army attack and managed to salvage one point.

The Police beat IRC "B" in their postponed League game played at Sookunpoo yesterday.

Police started off badly and lost three of their batsmen for only 12 runs on the board. Then the Riley-Illingworth partnership steadied up and runs came swiftly.

IRC batsmen found Harris unplayable and he took five of their wickets for 26 runs. With help from Rumbelow and Anderson, the home team was dismissed for 102 runs. Police won by 63 runs.

HOW THEY STAND

First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Army South	10	7	1	2	30
KCC	9	6	2	1	25
RAF	8	5	2	1	21
Recreio	9	5	3	1	21
Army North	9	5	3	1	21
Police	9	4	4	1	17
Optimists	9	4	5	0	16
Scorpions	7	3	2	2	14
KCC	9	3	6	0	12
Navy	8	0	7	1	1
University	7	0	7	0	0

Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Army	10	6	2	2	26
RAF	10	5	2	3	23
Dockyard	11	5	4	2	22
Recreio	7	5	1	1	21
IRC "A"	9	5	3	1	21
KCC	9	5	3	1	21
Police	10	5	4	1	21
DBS	11	5	5	1	21
IRC "B"	10	4	6	0	16
Navy	10	3	6	1	13
KGV	10	2	7	1	9
University	8	0	8	0	0

Five New "Caps" In Scottish Rugger Team

Edinburgh, Dec. 20.

Scotland's Rugby Union team to meet France in Paris on January 8, announced here last night, contains five new "caps."

The choice of a new captain—J. Greenwood—was a surprise as he has played in only one previous International. This was against France two years ago. Greenwood was preferred as leader to A. Robson, who led the "Probables" in Scotland's two trial matches.

The new "Caps" are M. L. Grant (Harlequins), J. T. Doherty (Glasgow High School Former Pupils), W. K. L. Ralph (Stewarts College Former Pupils), I. Hastie (Kelso), and H. Duffy (Jedforest).

Cameron, a former International Captain, is the most capped player in the side with ten previous Internationals. This will be his first game at full-back as he has previously played at stand-off or centre.

Swan, who received a head injury and retired from the final trial on Saturday, is expected to be fit in time for the match with France.

THE TEAM

The Scotland team will be:

A. Cameron (Glasgow High School F. P.), J. S. Swan (London Scottish), M. K. Elgie (London Scottish), M. L. Grant (Harlequins), T. G. Weatherstone (Stewarts College F. P.), J. T. Docherty (Glasgow High School F. P.), A. F. Dorward (Gala), H. F. McLeod (Hawick), W. K. L. Ralph (Stewarts College F. P.), I. J. Hastie (Kelso), J. J. Hegarty (Hawick), J. W. Y. Kemp (Glasgow High School F. P.), H. Duffy (Jedforest) J. Greenwood (Dunfermline) Captain, and A. Robson (Hawick).—Reuter.

THE GAMBOLS . . . . by Barry Appleby



SURF
SOAPLESS DETERGENT
for the
HEAVY WASH!

FRENCH VICTORY



Mlle. Renee Garilhe of France (right) in action against Mlle. Elona Elek of Hungary in the fencing match between France, Italy and Hungary. Mlle. Garilhe won her match by eight points to five. France were the team winners.—Agence France-Presse Photo.

WEEK-END SOFTBALL

Blackhawks Win Crucial Game To Stay In The Pennant Race

Blackhawks 'A' outhit and outran the Americans in 4th and 5th inning rallies to win 7-4 in a thrilling crucial game before a capacity crowd at King's Park yesterday and put themselves shoulder to shoulder in the hot race for the Senior "B" League pennant with the Yankees.

Blackhawks took the field first without Roberto and Manuel Nunes, who were playing hockey, and seemed shaky at the outset.

Armstrong of the Americans first got on base on a fumble, advanced by Jack Carvalho's sacrifice, and reached third on a pass ball. Jack Bordwell pulled out a long fly to left for another sacrifice but Armstrong was pegged at home when left fielder Gerry Remedios caught the ball and threw in in time to complete a double play.

Blackhawks' turn at bat was also unsuccessful though Rennie Barretto got a hit and made to second on an outfielder's fumble after one out. However, his hasty attempt to steal further resulted in a put out at third Tony Rodrigues fouled out to end the first inning.

In the second, Ken Donaldson and Claude Pugh of Yankees were both passed and "Red" Pereira's sacrifice hit brought them to third and second. Rick Wheeler slammed a powerful drive to right field which bounced off the mitt of the first baseman and scored Donaldson.

Pugh also reached home when the third baseman missed a throw for putting out the runner. Ted Whisler was issued a free ticket but Wheeler was nipped off at third for second out when he attempted a steal. Red Burling fouled out to end the inning.

Gerry Remedios of Hawks first got on through an error but was forced out on second when Cuscus Souza's grounder was picked up by Armstrong, the second baseman. Cuscus was nipped off on a steel for the second out. Though Johnny Pereira and Joey Graca both were on, Manuel Remedios' infield fly ruined all hope.

In the third canto Donaldson drew a walk after Carvalho and Bordwell were put out in another double play. Pugh also was passed and "Red" Pereira's timely hit to centre field brought Donaldson in.

Blackhawks obtained two hits in a row through Barretto and Rodrigues after two down, but Jack Carvalho, the hot corner guardian, spoiled their chance by throwing out Gerry Remedios on first when he lined in that direction.

CRUCIAL FOURTH

Then came the crucial fourth frame when both the Nunes arrived and the Blackhawks reshuffled their line-up immediately. Americans, however, added another run by Haney, who relieved Burling, in right field, through an error to lead by 4-0.

Now the big assault of the Hunting Birds started. Cuscus Souza first banged out a hot roller toward centre field. Johnny Pereira bunted a safety which passed the chucker and Joey Graca did likewise to load the bases.

Manuel Nunes in time lofted the sphere between the fielders for a hit and both Souza and Pereira crossed the plate. Roberto Nunes sacrificed on trying a squeeze but yielded another run.

Eric Remedios grounded toward right, was fumbled and Manuel Nunes dented the rubber to the the score. Remedios then stole second and reached third when Barretto was put out on first.

Lastly, Rodrigues, roller was again joined by the fielder and Remedios cleated the home plate to come out in front. However, Rodrigues was nipped off on second to end the rally and now the Blackhawks were leading by 5-4.

Americans went out quickly in the fifth and Blackhawks added two insurance runs. The first was through Cuscus Souza's midfield homer and another by Johnny Pereira, who dashed to third on his safe grounder toward the centre which was missed by the outfielder and was batted in by Joey Graca's sacrifice hit.

The Americans' endeavour in the sixth was frustrated though they got the base loaded after two down, and Blackhawks went out three straight.

The final attempt by the Yankee was a failure as three of them were put out successively and Blackhawks avenged their first round defeat.

SAINTS WIN

In the Senior "A" League, St Joseph's narrowly downed the fighting Warriors by 2-0. Fernando Marques pitched well for the Tribesmen who issued no walk and yielded only five hits.

Saints had a scare yesterday as Warriors put up stiff resistance and played the best game of this season. However, the Old Timers managed to push one run across home plate in the second and sixth to take the game. The Indians were unable to hit fireballer Vic Pedruco.

Only in the third did one man reach third station, but his hasty run on an infield pop ruined the only chance of scoring for the Warriors.

Another Senior "A" match was just a brushover as the Braves whitewashed the Delawares 21-0. Junior Remedios pitched for the former and he made the first no run and no hit game of the season in the Senior "A" League. Buji Dhabher of the Braves was solid at bat in having a four in five.

In the Ladies' Tournament, the South China Ladies battled the ex-champion Wahoo Aces to the last inning, only to lose 10-11.

The South China Ladies were leading during in the first four frames. However, the Aces' heavy hitting in the fourth and fifth cracked their formation and turned the tide. The Owls reaped four runs each in those two innings and edged out the Nom Wah girls. Sheila Silva of the Aces bagged a two-run homer in the fourth.

Wahoo Bees galloped over the CAA Ladies by 20-4. Sheila Collaco slammed out two home runs to bring in three runs for her team.

Valerie Fernandes annexed a three run homer and Bobby Lee and Evelyn Alenco each collected a four-bagger with two on. Angela D'Aquino took the batting a perfect four in four, including a triple.

The Pandarettes overwhelmed the Overseas Ladies by 29-1.

The Union League games were all one-way affairs as P.I. Dodgers downed the Seventeeners 19-10, Blackhawks 'B' walloped the South China Juniors 10-4 as Daniel Castro homered for the young Hawks, and Comets blanked the Wah Ying students 9-0.

FOUR COLONY ATHLETIC RECORDS NOT LIKELY TO SURVIVE THE SEASON

By "RECORDER"

Four Colony athletic records—three of these in the books since 1951 and the fourth since 1952—are unlikely to survive the current athletic season. These are the records for 400 Metres, 440 Yards, 800 Metres and 880 Yards.

Lt. K. Burch of the 1st Battalion, the Essex Regiment, and Stephen Xavier, the Hongkong Amateur Athletic Club's Asian and Empire Games competitor, gave notice at yesterday's triangular athletic match at Boundary Street that they are laying claim to these.

Burch broke "Paddy" MacMahon's Boundary Street ground record of 2 minutes 7.6 seconds in winning the 880 Yards Run, practically running the second half of the race on his own, to win in 2 minutes 5 seconds — extremely fast time for Boundary Street.

Most of the Colony's best Half Milers have run at Boundary Street at one time or another. MacMahon held the record until yesterday with 2:07.6 in the Army Championships in 1952 when he beat Lt. M.N.S. McCord of the Royal Ulster Rifles by two yards. Cpl. T.E. Williams has done 2:08.4 at Boundary Street and Gnr Derek Coburn 2.09.6. No one else of an impressive array of local Half Milers has ever gone under 2:10 there.

Second in yesterday's race in 2 minutes 10 seconds was Mike Curzon of the HKAAC. This was good going for a runner only beginning on his training, but Curzon was no match for Burch yesterday.

The Colony Half Mile record of 2 minutes 2.1 seconds was set by Bandsman H. Andison of the King's Own Scottish Borderers in the Army Championships at Sookunpoo in 1951. No other runner in Hongkong has run the "Half" faster than Burch yesterday, though J. P. MacMahon has clocked 2:02.0 (the Colony record), 2:03.8, 2:04.5 and 2:05.0 over 800 Metres (about 875 yards).

JUST SHORT

Stephen Xavier, whose 440 Yards running in the past has been confined to relay legs, turned in a very promising 54.1 seconds yesterday to beat 2/Lt. M. C. Sweeney (54.8) and Lt. Burch (55.2) after running into a long lead in the early stages of the race on which the two Army runners closed up considerably over the last 150 yards.

Stephen fell a fifth of a second short of the ground record of 53.9 seconds set up by Cpl. T. E. Williams of the 3 Royal Tank Regiment in the Army Championships in 1952. Williams holds the Colony record of 53.2 seconds, set up at Sookunpoo in the Army Championships in 1951.

Xavier demonstrated quite conclusively yesterday that he is a strong claimant to both Williams' 440 Yards record and the 400 Metres record of 51.8 seconds set up by Ng Yuen-fok of South China AA at Caroline Hill in the 1951 Colony Championships.

Only Williams has run the 440 yards faster than Xavier at Boundary Street. Norman Lo of University (54.3 in 1951) and 2/Lt. Goodburn (54.5 in 1953) are the only other Quarter Milers ever to have beaten 54½ seconds on the Boundary Street track.

Neither Sweeney nor Burch were as fresh as Xavier for this race yesterday, both having run tough races earlier while Xavier only ran a slow 100 Yards, or the competition would have been keener. A meeting of the three again with all running their first race of the day would be a star attraction and one to be snapped up for the interval of a big football match.

The HKAAC won yesterday's match with 103 points against 98 for the Essex Regiment and 92 for 14 Field Regiment, RA. No one took the point-scoring seriously and all three teams were very much early season scratch affairs with sometimes only one representative or none at all in some events.

Outside the day's two great performances, there were few other marks of class. C. N. Brand of the HKAAC managed a very creditable 167 feet 9 inches in the Javelin Throw, a mark which has been bettered at Boundary Street only by J. W. Bland of the Royal Navy (just over 170 feet) and Lt. Neville Hughes of the Welch Regiment, Colony record-holder at 187 feet 2½ inches who never did better at Boundary Street than 169:11½. Brand was one of England's best junior throwers this year and has done over 180 feet with the youths' javelin.

UPSET VICTOR

R. Bell of the HKAAC, the Novices' 440 Yards Hurdles Champion, was the biggest upset victor of the day when he outran A. E. Collaco, former Colony Champion and runner-up last year, in 63.8 seconds. But Collaco has done very little training if any at all this season and is by no means a "has-been" as he normally runs into form on very little training.

A notable double was scored by 2/Lt. P. J. R. Alderton of the Essex Regiment who won both the Mile and Three Miles. Neither race was fast, though Jack Wood of the Club, who isn't currently in very good form, forced the Three-Mile pace to a 16: 20.6 victory.

Capt. P. E. Edwards of the Essex Regiment also managed a Shot Put-Discus Throw double, beating Capt. J. B. Lambert of 14 Field in the latter event for the day's second biggest upset. Other double winners were Xavier (100 and 440) and Tsang Chung-him of the HKAAC, last year's Inter-School High Jump Champion (High and Long Jumps).

Worthy of note were the performances of Clouting, Marques and Little of the HKAAC in the 220 Yards. They clocked between 25.0 and 25.2, which is fast going for the tortuously-turning Boundary Street furlong course.

Sweeney won his race in 24.2 seconds, but that is only to be expected from the runner-up in the 200 Metres in the last Colony Championships. Few runners have beaten 24 seconds for the 220 at Boundary Street.

Next HKAAC meeting is against the Hongkong University Athletic Club and the Diocesan Boys' School at Boundary Street on Wednesday, December 29, and with the recent large recruitment into the Club's team it is hoped to arrange as many meetings as can be fitted in.

THE SUMMARIES

100 YARDS DASH

First Race:—1. Stephen Xavier (HKAAC), 10.6 secs.; 2. Robert Marques (HKAAC), 10.6 secs., 3. Sgt. Wright (1 Essex), 11.2 secs.; 4. Banford (14 Field) 5.2/Lt. Ritchie (1 Essex), 6. Rooney (14 Field).

Second Race:—1. L/Cpl. Dane (1 Essex), 11.2 secs., 2. Roy Spencer (HKAAC), 11.2 secs.; 3. Low (14 Field); 4. Hayes (14 Field); 5.2/Lt. Jones (1 Essex).

220 YARDS DASH

First Race:—2/Lt. M. C. Sweeney (14 Field), 24.2 secs.; 2. Robert Marques (HKAAC) 25.1 secs., 3. Little (HKAAC), 25.2 secs.; 4. Sgt. Wright (1 Essex), 5. Rooney (14 Field).

Second Race:—1. H. Clouting (HKAAC), 25.0 secs.; 2. D. J. Gunn (HKAAC), 25.6 secs.; 3. Pte. Cole (1 Essex), 4. Banford (14 Field), 5. Riley (14 Field).

440 YARDS DASH

First Race:—1. Stephen Xavier (HKAAC), 54.1 secs.; 2.2/Lt. M. C. Sweeney (14 Field); 54.8 secs., 3. Lt. K. Burch (1 Essex) 55.2 secs.; 4. L/Bdr. Wadsworth (14 Field).

Second Race:—1. D. J. Gunn (HKAAC), 58.2 secs.; 2. Lt. Kelly (1 Essex), 60.0 secs.; Watkins (14 Field), 60.2 secs.

880 YARDS RUN

1. Lt. K. Burch (1 Essex), 2 mins. 5.0 secs.; 2. M. P. Curzon (HKAAC), 2 mins. 10.0 secs.; 3. Jenkinson (14 Field), 2 mins. 11.1 secs.; 4. L/Bdr. Wadsworth (14 Field); 5. Gnr. Benbow (14 Field); 6. D. G. Brice (HKAAC).

ONE MILE RUN

1. 2/Lt. P. J. R. Alderton (1 Essex), 5 mins. 5.4 secs.; 2. Jenkinson (14 Field), 5 mins. 6.8 secs.; 3. J. E. Bacon (HKAAC), 5 mins. 21.3 secs.; 4. L/Bdr. Burton (14 Field); 5. L/Bdr. Shand (14 Field).

THREE MILES RUN

1. 2/Lt. P. J. R. Alderton (1 Essex), 16 mins. 20.8 secs.; 2. Jack Wood (HKAAC), 16 mins. 22.5 secs.; 3. Pte. Roach (1 Essex); 4. Pte. Ellis (1 Essex); 5. L/Bdr. White (14 Field); 6. Pte. Suffling (1 Essex); 7. L/Bdr. Burton (14 Field); 8. C. Churchill (HKAAC).

120 YARDS HIGH HURDLES

1. A. E. Collaco (HKAAC), 19.3 secs.; 2. 3/Lt. Ritchie (1 Essex), 20.5 secs.; 3. Gnr. Fitzgerald (14 Field) 20.8 secs.; 4. Lt. Macauley (14 Field).

440 YARDS LOW HURDLES

1. R. Bell (HKAAC), 63.8 secs.; 2. A. E. Collaco (HKAAC), 65.5 secs.; 3. C. E. Griffiths (HKAAC) 66.6 secs.; 4. L. 1 Bdr. Reilly (14 Field).

HIGH JUMP

1. Tsang Chun-him (HKAAC) 5 ft. 2½ ins.; 2. Pte. Cole (1 Essex), 5 ft. 0½ in.; 3.2/Lt. Ritchie (1 Essex) 4 ft. 10½ ins.; 4. Hall (14 Field) and Sheehan (14 Field) 4 ft. 9½ ins.

LONG JUMP

1. Tsang Chun-him (HKAAC), 18 ft. 9 ins.; 2. Banford (14 Field), 17 ft. 10½ ins.; 3.2/Lt. Ritchie (1 Essex), 17 ft. 9 ins.; 4. Gnr. Jolley (14 Field), 18 ft. 8 ins.; 5. Jones (14 Field), 18 ft. 4 ins.; 6. Gnr. Rooney (14 Field), 14 ft. 10 ins.

HOP, STEP & JUMP

1. 2/Lt. Ritchie (1 Essex), 39 ft. 3 ins.; 2.2/Lt. M. C. Sweeney (14 Field), 37 ft. 7½ ins.; 3. L/Bdr. Wadsworth (14 Field), 35 ft. 7 ins.

SHOT PUT

1. Capt. Edwards (1 Essex), 37 ft. 1½ ins.; 2. Cpl. Boatwright (1 Essex), 32 ft. 2½ ins.; 3. McCulloch (14 Field), 31 ft.; 4. K'lin (14 Field), 29 ft. 10½ ins.; 5. Capt. J. B. Lambert (14 Field), 29 ft. 2½ ins.; 6. C. N. Brand (HKAAC), 28 ft. 6½ ins.; 7. Hall (14 Field), 25 ft. 4½ ins.; 8. R. J. Robinson (HKAAC), 24 ft. 10½ ins.

DISCUS THROW

1. Capt. P. E. Edwards (1 Essex), 102 ft. 11½ ins.; 2. Capt. J. B. Lambert (14 Field), 101 ft. 7½ ins.; 3. Pte. Burroughs (1 Essex), 94 ft. 11¾ ins.; 4. R. J. Robinson (HKAAC), 89 ft. 4 ins.; 5. C. N. Brand (HKAAC), 87 ft. 1¾ ins.

JAVELIN THROW

1. C. N. Brand (HKAAC), 167 ft. 9 ins.; 2. Holland (HKAAC), 133 ft. 5½ ins.; 3. H. Clouting (HKAAC), 131 ft. 6 ins.; 4. Pte. Burroughs (1 Essex), 125 ft. 5 ins.; 5. Capt. J. B. Lambert (14 Field), 115 ft. 9½ ins.; 6. 2/Lt. Law (14 Field), 112 ft. 6½ in.; 7. R. Bell (HKAAC), 96 ft. 9 ins.

Vietnamese Retains Asian Table Tennis Singles Championship

Singapore, Dec. 19.

Vietnam's Mai Van Hoa, the 25-year-old Asian Champion, successfully retained his Men's Singles crown at the Third Asian Table Tennis Championships when he defeated Deogracias Aguasin of the Philippines in an hour-long battle at the Singapore Badminton Stadium tonight.

Mai won 17-21, 21-12, 21-17, 11-21, 21-13 to bring back to his country the Dato Paglar Cup for the second time.

Miss Baguio Wong of Hongkong was again in her best form when she won two more trophies for her country. She became the new Asian table tennis queen when she defeated Korea's Han Yong Ja by 22-24, 21-18, 21-8, 21-16.

She later partnered Lau Wai-lim to defeat Koren's Han Yong Ja and Wie Sang Suk after a close struggle by three games to two in the Women's Doubles to win the fourth title for Hongkong.

NIGHT'S UPSET

Singapore's Loh Heng-chew and Poon Weng-hoe provided the upset of the night when they dethroned the defending champions, Mai Van Hoa and Tran Canh Duoc (Vietnam) in the Men's Doubles final.

The Singapore's pair won 21-12, 21-16, 16-21, 21-15 in the best game of the night to become the new champion pair of Asia.

The Mixed Doubles title went to Korea, whose pair, Wie Sang Suk and Rhee Kyong Ho, was much too good for Meena Peranda and Y. S. Vyas of India. The Korean pair won easily by 21-13, 21-12, 21-15.

FULL RESULTS

Full results of the finals were:

Men's Singles

Mai Van Hoa (Vietnam) beat D. Aguasin (Philippines) 17-21, 21-12, 21-17, 11-21, 21-13.

Men's Doubles

Loh Heng-chew and Poon Weng-hoe (Singapore) beat Mai Van Hoa and Tran Canh Duoc (Vietnam) 21-12, 21-13, 16-21, 21-15.

Women's Singles

S. Baguio Wong (Hongkong) beat Han Yong Ja (Korea) 22-24, 21-18, 21-8, 21-16.

Women's Doubles

Baguio Wong and Lau Wai-lim (Hongkong) beat Han Yong Ja and Wie Sang Suk (Korea) 18-21, 21-8, 21-15, 19-21, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles

Wie Sang Suk and Rhee Kyong Ho (Korea) beat Y. S. Vyas and Meena Paranda (India) 21-13, 21-12 and 21-15.—Reuter.

EVERY TWO YEARS

Singapore, Dec. 18.

The Asian Table Tennis Championships will now be held once in every two years, it was decided at the third annual congress meeting held here today.

Manila has been chosen as the venue for the fourth Asian Championships to be held in December, 1956, while option for the holding of the fifth Asian Championships to be held in December, 1958 was given to Indonesia.

The meeting was attended by delegates from eight Asian countries. Before the meeting began, the delegates stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect to the late Dato C.J. Paglar, who had been Deputy President of the Table Tennis Federation of Asia for the past two years.

It was unanimously agreed that Mr. T. D. Ranga Ramanan had be [illegible] for making a strong representation to the International [illegible]

Perez Wants To Fight At Home

Buenos Aires, Dec. 19.

World Flyweight Champion Pascual Perez will defend his title only in Buenos Aires, unless ordered to fight elsewhere by the International Boxing Commission, promoter Ismael Pace declared today.

Pace said that Perez who recently won the title by defeating Yoshio Shirai in Tokyo, had had an offer to defend against third-ranking Leo Espinosa in Manila. But Perez wants to make his first title fight Pace said. United





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Via Southampton, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang & Singapore

Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
"CANTON"	14th Jan., 1955	14th Feb., 1955
"CHUSAN"	2nd Feb., "	2nd March "
"CARTHAGE"	11th Feb., "	14th March "
"CORFU"	11th Mar., "	11th Apr., "

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"OZARDA"	due 4th Jan.	from Japan
	sails 5th Jan.	for Singapore, Port Swettenham, Colombo, Karachi, Basrah, Khorramshahr & Kuwait
"ORDIA"	due 7th Jan.	from Japan
	sails 8th Jan.	for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Karachi, Basrah, Khorramshahr & Kuwait

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NOTICE

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED

Notice To Shareholders

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Members of the Company will be held at the Registered Office of the Company, 4th floor, P. & O. Building, on Thursday, the 23rd day of December, 1954 at 11 a.m. for the purpose of considering and if thought fit passing the following Resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:—

"That it is desirable that the agency agreement entered into with Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Company, Limited dated 13th November, 1947 be terminated and the Board of Directors of The Hongkong Electric Company, Limited be and are hereby authorised to offer the sum of $3,000,000.00 as compensation to the said Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Company, Limited in consideration of the total abandonment of all the contractual rights under the agreement dated 13th November, 1947, and that if the offer be accepted, the Board of Directors of The Hongkong Electric Company, Limited be authorised to enter into a Deed of Cessation with Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Company, Limited giving effect to the said arrangements for the termination of the Agency."

By Order of the Board of Directors,
W. STOKER,
General Manager.

Hong Kong,
Tuesday, 23rd November, 1954.

NOTICE

THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG

For the benefit of married women wishing advice on family planning a clinic for English speaking women will be held at Red Cross Blood Donors Centre in Statue Square (opposite the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank Building, Des Voeux Road, Central) on the 1st and 3rd THURSDAY of each month from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon commencing on THURSDAY, 6th JANUARY, 1955.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

"BATAAN"

Damaged cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at Holt's Wharf from 10 a.m. on December 22, 1954, and consignees are requested to have their representatives present during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.

Hong Kong, December 20, 1954.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

"PERSEUS"

Damaged cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Palsen & Bayes-Davy at Holt's Wharf from 10 a.m. on December 23 and 24, 1954, and consignees are requested to have their representatives present during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.

Hong Kong, December 20, 1954.

Hollywood Depraved Says Russian

London, Dec. 19.

An attack on Hollywood's "depravity" was made at the second congress of Soviet writers, now in session in Moscow, Tass, the official Soviet news agency, said today.

Mr Sergei Gerasimov, a film director and "Peoples Artist of the USSR", said: "In glaring contrast to Soviet cinematography, which brings to the masses the ideas of humanism and friendship of the peoples, and has rendered great services in the development of progressive culture, stands Hollywood.

"There, history and world classics are perverted, stories are written according to the canons of falsehood and vulgarisation and from there issues a flood of pictures glorifying murder, depravity and crime".—Reuter.

Black Marketeers Sentenced

Frankfurt, Dec. 19.

A German court at Hanau, near here, sentenced a restaurant owner and her husband to 10 months' and seven months' imprisonment respectively for having sold 85,000 American cigarettes, 118 lbs of coffee, and 64 bottles of whisky without having paid duty.

The woman was also fined 1,000 marks (about £83) and her husband 500 marks (£42). Both were ordered to pay 10,352 marks (about £863) compensation to the finance authorities.—Reuter.

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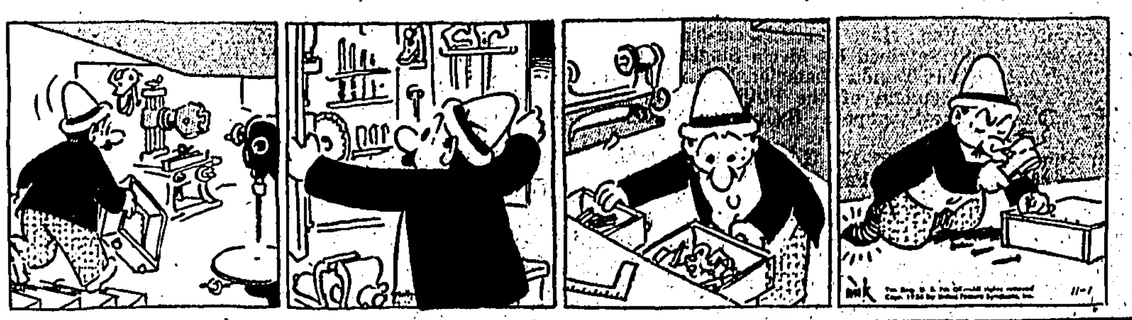
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Antwerp Diamond Industry Faces Crisis

Antwerp, Dec. 18.

The Antwerp diamond industry, formerly one of Belgium's main sources of prosperity, is facing a serious crisis.

The famous Antwerp diamond houses, known the world over for the quality of their cutting and polishing, are operating on slender profit margins and troubled by frequent strikes.

Today, nearly one of the city's 12,000 diamond workers are unemployed, while the wages of those at work have dropped considerably from the immediate postwar period when they were considered "the aristocrats of European Labour."

Imports of polished diamonds are also rising year by year to give increased competition to the national industry, which ranks second only to London in Europe.

PRICE INCREASE

The Antwerp industry, which paid, with its exports of cut gems, for nearly three-quarters of Belgium's imports after the war, has been hit by an increase in the price of rough diamonds.

These dull, lustre-less pebbles, which are transformed by Antwerp's highly skilled cutters and polishers into valuable long "baguettes", "squares", "pears" and other forms, are the industry's raw material.

But Antwerp's diamond merchants, whose annual turnover is about £20,000,000, claim that prices for polished stones have not kept pace with rough diamond prices in recent years.

They say that the 3,500,000 carats of rough diamonds imported on an average each year cost more than £20,000,000, while the 500,000 carats of polished stones exported now fetch just over £19,000,000.

Although the Belgian Congo produces about two-thirds of the world's output of rough diamonds, the Antwerp industry depends for its supplies on a huge Trust, headed by Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, the "Diamond King".

The Trust, the Diamond Trading Company, has a virtual monopoly of distributing rough diamonds to manufacturing centres and buys the entire Congo output. By keeping the prices for rough diamonds firm, it aims at maintaining a stable market for polished gems on the world market.

Pelican Street — Antwerp's equivalent of London's Hatton Garden—says that the Trust must supply it with more good quality rough diamonds if the industry is to survive.

QUALITY OF WORK

The Belgian industry has always based its prosperity on the quality of its craftsmen's work, a claim recognised, moreover, by the trade which allots the title "Antwerp qualities" to the precious gems cut and polished here.

Diamond merchants state that they are at present obliged to import a large quantity of so-called "marginal stones" which fall between the category of the industrial and the gem diamond. These marginal stones are turned into gems, because the market for industrial diamonds has fallen considerably. But they fetch little as jewels because of their inferior quality.

The Congo output consists mainly of "sands", the small stones used for industrial purposes and does not interest the majority of Antwerp's cutters who handle only the larger stones used for jewellery.

But Antwerp diamond merchants consider that the importance of the Congo's production justifies their claims to receive more good quality stones from the Diamond Trading Company.

CONTRACT EXPIRING

The contract between Sir Ernest Oppenheimer's company and the "Forminiere Company mining diamonds in the Congo expires next year and negotiations for its renewal have already begun.

After Sir Ernest had visited Belgium recently for talks with the Government, it was unofficially announced that the Diamond Trading Company was ready to make concessions to meet Antwerp's demands.

The Belgian industry's complaints have also recently turned to tariff barriers abroad, which, it says, are stifling the Antwerp trade.

Negotiations with the United States to reduce the present 10 per cent American import duty on polished stones have failed, while South Africa, one of the world's main suppliers of rough diamonds, does not grant licences for the import of polished diamonds.

These restrictions have led to large scale smuggling which is causing much concern to reputable diamond houses here. One recent case, which is still awaiting trial involves more than £80,000 worth of polished diamonds taken into the United States.

NO RESTRICTIONS

Belgium, however, imposes no restrictions on the import of polished diamonds. Nearly 3,000 more carats of polished stones have been imported into Belgium in the first seven months of this year than in the whole of 1951, which was the largest post-war year with 26,459 carats.

The Antwerp manufacturers also claim that Holland and Germany are able to undercut the Belgian industry because of lower wages and social charges, and because they do not work a five-day 40-hour week.—Reuter.

Fewer Accidents On Safety Day

Washington, Dec. 19.

Fifty-one people were killed and 966 injured in 3,935 traffic accidents last Wednesday—America's "safe driving day".

Rear-Admiral H. B. Miller, Director of the Special Action Committee for Traffic Safety, appointed by President Eisenhower, said that complaints had proved otherwise.

On December 16 last year

XMAS OVER THE WORLD

Our special writer brings you scenes from Christmas-tide

•

The British are preparing to spend more money this Christmas than ever before, according to bankers.

In spite of some higher prices, all the signs are that it will be celebrated lavishly. Bank of England figures show that the value of notes circulating in the nation as December 25 draws near is well over £100,000,000 more than last year.

Full employment, higher wages, and overtime working are the main reasons for the well-stocked purses of Christmas shoppers.

All big stores report increased sales. This is especially so in the industrial Midland towns and cities of England where factories are working day and night to fill orders. The "boom" towns there have had great new influxes of population as workers have come from other parts of the country to take up well-paid jobs.

On Christmas Eve, as generations of children have done before them, British children will hang their stockings at the foot of their beds, confident that while they sleep, Santa Claus, or Father Christmas as some prefer to call him, will come down the chimney and fill them with toys.

Few boys will be happy unless they find a space-man's suit or "an atomic ray gun". The modern equivalent of the old-fashioned Wild West cowboy outfit, awaiting them on Christmas morning.

Even Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, seems to think of travel to other planets, for his mother, Queen Elizabeth, was seen trying out a ray gun when she went Christmas shopping in London recently.

London has its own special Christmas tree—a giant fir sent by people of Norway each year since World War II and erected in Trafalgar Square in the heart of the capital. From just before Christmas to Twelfth Night, Londoners crowd round it each night to sing carols.

Queen Elizabeth will give her annual message to her peoples from Sandringham, the Royal country home, where she and her family will spend Christmas.

BELGIUM

Flying saucers and Martians will descend on Brussels this Christmas to help the city's inhabitants to celebrate the festival.

The Martians and their saucers will swarm in many large shops and are expected to make their most impressive appearance in one of Brussels' central streets, which is to be specially heated during the whole of the Christmas festivities.

For the city's "Syndicat d'Initiative", which organises the seasonal attractions and believes in topicality, has made the theme of this year's festivities "Flying Saucers and Martians."

The "men from Mars", however, are only a small part of the preparations. Workmen have erected arches of special electric bulbs for the traditional "Festival of Lights", which each Christmas turns Brussels into a blaze of colour at night.

Similar spectacular illuminations also decorate most other Belgian towns.

Belgian opera lovers are also having their Christmas treat. The famous Bayreuth company is giving several performances here, the first of which will be attended by Belgium's dowager Queen Mother Elisabeth, a patron of the arts.

Most Belgian houses will be adorned with brightly decorated Christmas trees and the traditional cribs presenting the scene of the Nativity, which are usually illuminated.

Though thousands of families will flock into Brussels streets on Christmas Eve to see the gay lights and to show their children the brightly lit shop windows, most Belgians now prefer to celebrate at home.

The high cost of living has reduced an immediate postwar boom in outside Christmas entertainment, and the festival has again become more a family gathering.

FRANCE

French hotels are preparing for a record Christmas invasion thanks to the increased British tourist allowance which now makes two Continental holidays a year possible for many people.

Hotel associations and tourist agencies are expecting many more Britons to cross the channel for the Christmas festivities than at any time since the war. Advance bookings in Paris were heavy as far back as the beginning of November, while winter sports resorts in the Alps and fashionable centres on the Riviera Coast report that they are hoping for a bumper season.

The visitors will find Paris more gay, more friendly and more decorated than ever before. Prices, still the bugbear of tourists and Frenchmen alike, have remained stationary and for some types of goods, have even fallen slightly. Restaurants, theatres and nightclubs are booming, and the stores, garlanded and brightly-lit, are handling a huge trade in gifts, clothing and toys.

For most Frenchmen, Christmas is primarily a religious occasion celebrated in church and at home. Cathedrals and churches are always packed on Christmas Eve for midnight Mass and again on Christmas morning.

Christmas Day is spent quietly after the nightlong feasting. Some people take a walk along the Paris Boulevards, others visit friends. Many go to the cinema or local sporting events. Then there are a few days back at work before another bout of all-night eating and drinking on New Year's Eve followed by large family gatherings on New Year's Day.



THE RIVER JORDAN, scene of the beginning of Christianity as the locale of John the Baptist's activities, is the only river of importance in Palestine, and is the principal feeder of the Sea of Galilee. In this stream, he baptised his followers. It was as Jesus was leaving the waters of the Jordan after baptism that He received His blessing from God.

SWITZERLAND

Switzerland, a hard-currency bastion of armed neutrality, looks forward once more to a Christmastide unsurpassed anywhere else for peace and plenty.

Like the Scandinavian peoples, the Swiss prepare their Christmas tree with almost mystic rites. Most families would regard its decoration with electric lights as practically sacrilegious.

Only candle light is soft and intimate enough to illuminate the boughs on which a multitude of traditional ornaments hang: among them a red-topped mushroom and a little church, reigned over by a lovely angel or a glittering star.

Beneath the tree, the wide-eyed children will find their presents gaily wrapped. The Infant Jesus will lay them there, or, if a cunning watch is set for Him, an angel with flowing robes and gleaming wings will flit into the house. Often, the children have to recite a poem or sing a song for the family before receiving their presents.

Swiss children do not hang up stockings as the English youngsters do. But some, especially in the Italian-speaking Canton of Ticino, will leave shoes displayed conspicuously on Christmas Eve in the hope of finding them filled with presents in the morning.

Santa Claus, or Saint Nicholas, enters hardly at all into the Christmas celebrations in most parts of Switzerland. He had his day on December 6, distributing nuts and apples to the good children and bringing a birch-rod to use on the bad ones—if he could find any.

The Feast of Saint Nicholas is a day on which Switzerland's rich folklore comes to life in special pageantry. The "Klause" traditions vary greatly throughout the 22 Cantons of the Confederation, and even from village to village.

In Fribourg, whose patron is Saint Nicholas, there is a strange procession. Saint Nicholas rides through the streets on a donkey escorted by hordes of black-faced "Pere Fouettards" who pursue the naughty children with their whips and birch-rods amid a riot of excitement.

In several parts of German-speaking Switzerland, whole groups of "Klause" parade through the streets in fantastic head-dresses. In some places, their weird march, which had its origins in the darkness of pagan times, is accompanied by the clanging of heavy cow-bells.

AUSTRIA

Austrians are facing Christmas this year more cheerfully than ever before since World War II.

The almost miraculous improvement in the Austrian economy during 1954 makes them hope that their postwar difficulties are finally ended.

The Austrians who had set round their poorly decorated Christmas trees each year from 1945 to 1950 and dreamed of all the beautiful things they would buy once there was no more rationing and no shortage of food and consumer goods, in 1953 found that their income was too small and prices too high for them to buy the goods which were available.

This year, however, things have changed. The Finance Minister has announced a ten per cent cut in income tax as from January 1 next year. Plentiful supplies of foreign currency, brought in by the tourist trade and increased exports, together with a far wider range of imports have resulted in stocks of cheaper and better foreign goods. Trade and industry are booming and unemployment is reduced to a minimum. In some branches of industry, wages have risen.

Even if they have to sacrifice something else to pay for it, most Austrian families try to set up gaily decorated Christmas tree with numerous candles which are lighted for the first time on Christmas Eve, December 24, the great day in Austria.

Under the tree, they place the presents—and there they look for one for themselves on Christmas Eve. Those for the children are "delivered" by "Father Christmas" or the Christ Child."

Christmas Day, December 25, is spent quietly in Austria. People generally stay at home, take little walks or visit friends. December 26, St Stephen's day, is the day for entertainment, with visits to theatres, cinemas, bars and dancing clubs.

After these formal holidays, the Christmas season in Austria continues and the Christmas trees are lighted every evening until the Feast of Epiphany, January 6, the "Day of the Three Kings."

On this day, the beautiful Christmas trees will be "dismantled" in presence of the whole family and cut up for firewood.

WEST GERMANY

West Germany, with the end of occupation in sight, will celebrate the tenth Christmas since the war with glittering gifts and hearty feasting, symbolic of her rapid climb back to prosperity from the ruins of defeat.

German boys and girls have no need to peep surreptitiously from under the blankets to catch a glimpse of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. They meet him face to face, after he has been welcomed by the grown-ups, in a room where the presents, wrapped in gaily-coloured paper, are laid out round the brightly-decorated Christmas tree.

Gifts and food cramming gaily-festooned shops all over the country are most plentiful and of better quality this year than at any other Christmas since the war. Many stores have added an extra floor or more since last year and new stores have been built.

West Berliners, barred for many years from entering East Germany hope that the ban on crossing the border will be lifted for Christmas, allowing them to visit relations, some of them living only a few miles outside Berlin.

It will be a bleak Christmas for West Berlin's 160,000 unemployed, about 500,000 others living off small pensions or social welfare funds, and refugees, mainly East Germans, crowding 50 camps, unable to be flown to West Germany because authorities do not recognise their reasons for fleeing as political.

Some of these people will be able to buy their children only a pair of woollen socks or a bar or two of chocolate.

The West Berlin city government has set aside additional funds to give extra coal and food to poor people. Welfare organisations are also helping and allied soldiers in Berlin are playing hosts to orphans and refugee children at parties.

—China Mail Special.

Tomorrow: We take you to the Scandinavian countries.

TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

COLOMBO PLAN SUCCESS

Spectacular Advances In Southeast Asia Were Not Visualised

From Ronald Boxall

London, Dec. 19.

Although there is much that is positively encouraging in the third annual report of the Colombo Plan, judgment on its progress to date is best approached from a negative angle. For the Plan itself — idealistic though it seemed at its inception—did not visualise, in the first six-year stage at least, a spectacular advance in South and Southeast Asia.

Its object rather was to help member countries to develop their resources sufficiently to offset the pressure of a rising population which was dragging them back.

Judged in this light the Colombo Plan can be pronounced a great success. Not only have its members managed to hold their own in face of adverse economic pressures; they have in some cases actually improved their position. The sceptics should ask themselves: What would economic conditions have been like in this area if the Plan had not existed?

The report ends on an optimistic note. The development programmes in the area, it says, are now reaching a point where tangible returns can be expected. Nor will the plan fail for the lack of "follow through." It is now almost certain to be extended for a further period beyond its present expiry date in 1957.

Ingredients of economic development are men, money and machines. Manpower is unlimited but facilities for the acquisition of the necessary skills are not. Through the scheme for technical co-operation which runs parallel with the Colombo Plan, however, more and more Asians are learning industrial crafts without which there could be no lasting economic advance.

But craftsmen alone are helpless to do all the things that need to be done in the Colombo area. They must have machines with which to work. And they cost money.

OWN EFFORTS

That in a few words is the problem confronting the Colombo countries. For despite their own efforts to raise capital internally and despite money made available by grants and loans from the British dominions more is needed if the standard of living in the area is to be raised to a measurable distance of that enjoyed in the West.

Great interest has therefore been aroused by the recent discussions in Washington about an American "Marshall Plan" for Asia. But reaction to the suggestion is not unreservedly favourable.

Free Asia needs capital but it wants above all to retain its political independence. Many of the countries associated with the Plan have only recently attained self-government and this no doubt explains why they look cautiously at any offer of help to see whether political strings are attached.

Nor are they alone in their doubts about the suggestion for an Asian Marshall Plan. London commentators, too, see disadvantages in the idea.

In the first place it is pointed out such a plan would embrace the whole of non-Communist Asia including Formosa and South Korea—the only two countries in this category which are not associated with the Colombo Plan but which on the other hand are chief recipients of American aid. Would political motives be absent from such a setup?

Whether they would or not it is feared that the Americans would wish to subordinate the Colombo Plan to the new agency — and this is something that everyone is agreed should not be allowed to happen.

CAPTURED IMAGINATION

The Plan has captured that imagination of the Asians as no other scheme for economic development could. Its main theme is not external aid but self-help. And it is working well because in the words of the Manchester Guardian "the countries taking part have confidence that the only aim is economic development and advancement; and that there is no intention of using it as means of forcing unwelcome military alliances upon them."

But though the Colombo Plan has no definite political motives it would be naive to suppose that it has no political effect. For without the aids to prosperity that the Plan provides Asia would be doomed to poverty and its gradual drift to Communism would be inevitable. If all are agreed that more capital is needed to ensure that the Colombo countries continued freedom, no petty suspicions should be allowed to hamper its flow.

The Colombo countries are entitled, however, to a say in the terms on which they are to be saved. And one of these will be that the Colombo Plan—which is their own creation—should not be superseded by any other agency concerned with the economic development of this vital area.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET REVIEW

By Elmer Walzer

New York, Dec. 19.

Railroad issues soared during the past week in their best weekly gain since October 10, 1931. Their strength sustained the whole market and helped lift industrials to a record high.

Rails reached their best level since June 4, 1930. They gained 6.60 points on average, easily the widest rise for that average this year.

The rails were bought on the outlook for improvement in business for the railroads in 1955. Big gains are looked for in steel and automobile as well as building and this would mean more freight to haul. Utilities set a new high since 1931 and then backed away from it by a few cents.

STEELS BUOYANT

The steels were buoyant when the market finally turned around on Wednesday. They responded along with other issues to a statement by the head of the Federal Reserve System interpreted as meaning the Federal Reserve will retain its easy money policy.

The gains were sharp in several oils and rails aircrafts, televisions, and special issues.

In the rails, St Louis Southwestern rose 17 points and its preferred 20 points. Atlantic Coast Line was up 15¼.

Metals accounted for many good gains and a long list set new highs. Chrysler rose 2 in its section. Steel set new highs. Tyres were better. Electrical equipments made small net gains. Rail equipments had strong spots.

Oils had many wide gains reflecting an improved outlook for that industry. December is expected to be a big one for sales of petrol as well as for heating oil. November saw a spurt in oil sales because of a cold snap in northern states.

Early in the week the selling that occurred was classified as profit-taking, switching, and tax selling. This apparently was forgotten when the market set off on a new track to unexplored territory. Business continued highly favourable and the productions were bright for the coming year.—United Press.

The Bank Of England Statement

London, Dec. 19.

The Bank of England statement for the week ended December 15, reads as follows:

Note circulation	£1,746,041,000
Public deposits	£11,000,000
Government securities	£1,000,000
Other securities	£1,000,000
Reserves	£1,000,000
Ratio	45.15%

—United Press.

HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE

(From Our Correspondent)

Noon quotations on the Hongkong Stock Exchange and the morning's transactions.

SHARES	BUYERS	SELLERS	SALES
BANKS			
HK Bank	1965		2 @ 1970
East. Asia	210	216	
INSURANCES			
Union	905		20 @ 907½
Lombard		51	
DOCKS, ETC.			
K. Wharf	84		
Provident (O)	15.80	1000	@ 15.70
Wheelock	6.85	6.90 1000	@ 6.90
LAND, ETC.			
HK Hotel	15.30	15.40 3500	@ 15.30
		1000	@ 15.40
		500	@ 15.40
HK Land	67	67½ 100	@ 67
		1220	@ 67½
Humphreys	24.90	25	
Realty		2.15	
UTILITIES			
Tram	21.40	21.70 2300	@ 21½
Star Ferry	150		
Yaumati Ferry	163	165 150	@ 164
C. Light (O)	18.10	18.30 500	@ 18.30
		2000	@ 18.30
		500	@ 18.30
C. Light (N)	18	18.30 500	@ 18.30
Electric	38¾	39 1500	@ 38¾
		1000	@ 39
		1000	@ 38¾
Telephone	31½	32 2750	@ 31½
INDUSTRIALS			
Cement	39½	40	
Rope		13.40	
STORES, ETC.			
Dairy	2.25	2.40	
Fu	19.50		111 @ 19.50
Wing On	12.50		
A. Crawford	67.50		

Two Indian Industries To Lose Protection

New Delhi, Dec. 19.

The Indian Government has decided to discontinue protection to the sewing machine and zip fastener industries from December 31, 1954. The Government's resolution on the Tariff Commission's report to this effect has been published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary. In both cases, the existing rates of duties will continue to be collected as revenue duties from January, 1955.

The Government have also accepted various ancillary recommendations for assisting the industries in obtaining supplies of raw materials and improving the quality of their products. — China Mail Special.

Spain Wants Steel Goods

Madrid, Dec. 17.

The Direction General de Co-operacion Economica has called for tenders for supply of $213,600 worth of steel goods and insulators for high tension lines for Iberduero S.A. as part of U.S. aid. Tenders will be permitted from member countries of the OEEC in Europe, the U.S. and possessions, Japan, French North Africa and Latin America and must be in the hands of the Direction by January 5, 1955.

The Direccion has also called tenders for supply of two drainage pumps and an air compressor for S.A. Minas de Barruelo. Firms in the same list of countries are eligible and the closing date is January 5.

Further information on both tenders can be obtained from the Direccion General de Co-operacion Economica, Goya 5, Madrid.—China Mail Special.

Exchange Rates

Business was done in the local unofficial exchange market this morning at the following rates:—

U.S. dollar (per $1)	5.90
Sterling notes (per £1)	15.70
Indonesian rupiah (per 100)	18.60
Siam ticals (per 100)	27.20
Singapore (Straits)	1.81
Indo-China piastres (per 100)	10.70

NEW YORK COTTON MARKET REVIEW

By William Plunkett

New York, Dec. 19.

Cotton prices crept ahead gradually this week with the new crop deliveries developing relative strength.

At Friday's close the list ruled 7 to 24 points—35 cents to $1.20 a bale—higher than the preceding week.

While frequent declines punctuated the rise, with the market selling, especially from Far Eastern sections, the market showed underlying power.

Technicians said they were encouraged by the market's show of resistance which developed following the Government's unexpectedly large crop estimate on Dec. 8.

Despite the big increase in crop prospects over the last few months of the season, statisticians pointed out that the supply picture at the end of the season next July could present a different aspect.

FIVE FACTORS

Looking far ahead, traders expecting a lightening supply situation before the next harvest, said there are five factors to be reckoned with:

1. The overwhelming producer approval of production—marketing controls for next year; 2. Indications that legislative quarters may drop previous plans to drive for an increase in acreage allotments next year; 3. Virtual assurance of rigid high Government price supports; 4. The increased amounts of cotton going under the Government loan programme; 5. Possibilities that supplies needed in commercial channels eventually may have to come out of the loan stock on which carrying charges are mounting steadily.

The Census Bureau reported domestic consumption of all raw cotton during November at 703,697 running bales. This compared with 706,603 bales used in October and 684,976 bales consumed in November last year. Consumption for the four months ended Nov. 30 totalled 2,893,058 bales against 2,986,440 bales last season.—United Press.

The Bank Of France Statement

Paris, Dec. 19.

The Bank of France statement for the week ended December 9, reads as follows:

	Francs
Total gold holding	261,261,261,422
Total other currencies	18,076,171,727
Sight balance abroad (in EPU	53,809,807,333
Advance to Curr. Stabie. Fund	101,400,000,000
Total bills discounted	1,118,081,248,000
Current accounts and deposits	818,128,163,000
Bank note in circulation	1,611,884,262,000

—United Press.

London Market Picks Up Christmas Spirit

From Our Own Correspondent

London, Dec. 20.

Dreary conditions gave way to Christmas cheer on the London Stock Exchange last week.

The hardening of short term interest rates caused some uncertainty, especially in the gilt-edged market, at the beginning of the week, but with the opening of the new account—which will be settled in the New Year—industrial shares went ahead on their own stimulus of favourable company news.

On Monday industrial ordinary shares, as measured by the Financial Times index, had fallen to 176.2 but by Thursday's close they were back to 180.7 which is within striking distance of their all-time high of 182.3 reached early in November. Indeed Friday's buoyant market which lifted prices all through the list might well have pushed the index to a new peak.

The swing around in sentiment in the market is attributable mainly to a return of confidence in company prospects. Favourable results have been announced by a number of companies, the chief of which were the Hawker Siddeley group, Ranks (the flour millers), and Decca. In the steel group Stewarts and Lloyds and United Steel also announced bumper results.

RALLIED SHARPLY

Gilt-edged stocks after an early weakness on the lowering of the tender price of Treasury bills rallied sharply on Tuesday but drifted lower in quiet conditions later.

Market prospects for the New Year appear to be bright. Investors have overcome their fears of inflation which partly explained the previous fall and now that confidence has returned in the industrial share market prices should continue their present upward trend in the New Year.

The present dullness in the gilt-edged market is considered a temporary phase caused partly by the lingering fear that the bank rate may be raised and partly by sales to meet insurance claims for losses due to recent floods. Market experts are confident that once this phase has passed Government securities will resume their recent advance.

Elsewhere in the market Anglo-Iranian — now renamed British Petroleum — touched a new all-time peak of £10 but this was not held and the shares close at £18 12s 6d which represents a net gain of £1 3s 9d on the week. Other oils have been generally firm.

Copper shares displayed renewed strength but Rahrs had a quiet week.

Rubber shares improved on the higher price of the commodity. Tins turned [illegible]

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JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Party line

DRY - MOUTHED and despondent, dispirited, disillusioned, the drunks were trundled one by one into the dock at the Clerkenwell court.

There were 21 of them. Some were innocents taken unawares by the elasticity of this convivial season. Some were old hands, delighted to find such liberality once more abroad.

All, in various degrees, were suffering, and each was attended by the policeman who had arrested them, who now had a role somewhere between chaperone and governess.

MUMBLING

RUNNING a finger down his register, the magistrate, Mr Seymour Collins, counted the tally and resigned himself to listening to post-mortems on 21 parties of the night before.

The procession began. Some came in with a shuffle that suggested they had swapped boots in error with a deep-sea diver, and some achieved an uncertain jauntiness that almost approached levitation.

Anxiously, as if surprised that they still had the gift of speech, they explained in a mumbled word or two, the reason for their affliction.

NOT USED TO IT

"I'M not used to drink," said a middle-aged woman, and buried her chin primly into the upturned collar of her fur-coat.

She was fined 10s., which that morning, seemed to be the rate for the job, and into the dock came a mild, balding man, who whispered: "I'm just grateful to the officer for taking care of me."

INCENDIARY

NEXT came a man in a polo-necked sweater, whose party the night before, his policeman-chaperone described in a sort of poetry.

"This man, sir," he said, "was what you might call a fire, sir, like a match, who might have set alight a crowd of Irishmen round him.

"It was turning-out time at the public-house; and, outside it, he was inflaming this crowd."

ME FRIEND!

KNOWING how sensitive are the Irish, the magistrate enquired: "He was saying unkind things about Ireland, was he?" The constable nodded. "Ten shillings," the magistrate said, and by the time he had marked his register an Irishman had been shown not into the dock, but to the side of it.

"I've come," he said, "to plead guilty for me friend, who can't get here, being a pile-driver down in Watford."

NO PROXIES

IN such cases, of course, a personal appearance is counted essential.

"Tell your friend," said the magistrate, "that he must come here.... (he named a date) or there will be a warrant for his arrest." Into the dock was shown a neatly-dressed young West African.

THE LAST PINT

"NOT guilty," he said, when the charge of being drunk was put.

A policeman told of finding the young African unable to support himself, leaning on a shop window just before midnight.

"How much had you drunk?" the magistrate asked the young African.

"Suh, only three pints," came the answer, "but into the last pint someone poured some whisky, an' that made me sick—not drunk."

"Did you finish the pint when you found there was whisky in it?" the magistrate asked.

ADVICE

GLUMLY, the young man nodded. "Yes, suh," he said. "I finished it all right." "Well, if you want a little free advice," said Mr Collins, "if someone laces your drink at a party, leave it alone."

The greybeards in the public gallery nodded approval at such [illegible] wisdom, and the young man went away to pay 10s. for the free advice.

OUR AUSTRALIAN NEWSLETTER

Arthur Calwell Gives Canberra A Surprise: He Spoke In Chinese

From H. King Wood

Sydney.

The Christmas stampede has set in and there is no doubt that the note issue for shoppers this year will be a record.

There is also no doubt that the Christmas display in the shops, both in the line of goods for sale and decorations, have never been surpassed.

Neither, according to what we can hear, has the prices.

But the display of Christmas trees, coloured lights and free shows around town are a little bewildering, but certainly gay.

All in all, it looks like being a bumper season.

☆ ☆ ☆

One of our political stormy birds, Arthur Calwell, revealed a previously unknown qualification this week when he addressed a meeting in Chinese.

He was proposing the health of the retiring Chinese Consul-General, Mr Martin Wang. He began his remarks in English, then lapsed into Chinese which he carried on for about three minutes.

His Chinese listeners laughed at his jokes, applauded his references to Chinese affairs and smiled forgivingly when he stumbled over a phrase.

When asked for an opinion on the fluency of Mr Calwell's speech, an elderly Chinese said: "One can make out quite well what he is saying, but, of course, he is not Chinese and in our language accent and inflection are everything."

Mr Calwell said later he started learning Chinese eight years ago. "I took up Chinese, Italian, French and Irish Gaelic as a relaxation from the strain of political life."

Which seems to us to be a queer way to relax, but he must find Chinese a very useful language in which to address his leader, "Doc" Evatt, now the two don't exactly see eye to eye.

SWIMMING AT 'ALICE'

Sun-scorched Alice Springs' first full-scale swimming carnival on Sunday was an event to be remembered.

A retired gold miner, Mr C. H. Chapman, who built the pool, could not have hoped for a more appreciative public. As the boys and girls, men and women swam in the centre's first competitive water sports, 80-year-old Mr Chapman, sat beaming and getting splashed on the pool apron.

When the cheering and the splashing died down the Federal member for the Territory, Mr Jock Nelson, presented trophies and paid a tribute to the old miner.

This man Chapman, incidentally, is quite a figure around those parts. Made extremely wealthy by gold and his interests in rich mines, his home is a show place — a garden of Eden in a dry, near-waterless land.

He even imports fish spawn for his local pond and spends many a pleasant hour with rod and line, catching his dinner.

ABORIGINES' SURNAMES

And while talking of Alice Springs.... Such names as Dingo Mick, Big Foot Jack and Murdering George, by which many natives are now known in the Territory, will gradually disappear.

A new system aims to develop family surnames for aborigines.

The Superintendent of Native Affairs, Mr Evans, said the system would replace highly colourful if somewhat personal titles.

Such names were undignified, he said, and could be interpreted as a reflection on our attitude to native people.

Under the new system natives would receive a Christian name and the surname would be derived from the native's tribe, personal totem, or aboriginal name for place of birth or tribal area.

He added that the massive task of naming thousands of bush natives would fall to patrol officers.

Big Foot Jack may be undignified, but it certainly has colour and our bet is that he will continue to be known as Big Foot Jack, rather than some dignified but drab name handed out to him by officialdom.

DAVIS CUP JITTERS

At the moment we have a small case of jitters about holding the Davis Cup, and apparently the key is 20-year-old Lewis Hoad.

What's wrong with Hoad? He's had too much tennis . . . hasn't had enough tennis . . . he's too tensed . . . he's too relaxed . . . he and Harry Hopman have had a row . . . he's too friendly with Harry . . . he wants a good holiday . . . he has had too many holidays . . . and so it goes on.

Actually, the thing wrong with Hoad is that too many people are on his back.

Come Davis Cup morning Lew Hoad is gong to play the game of his life . . . if the critics don't break his heart beforehand.

☆ ☆ ☆

A new flight is to be added to the RAAF Station at Richmond.

Sir Edward Hallstrom, of animal fame, is presenting the Station with a flock of black swans for the local lake.

It is confidently expected that the flight will soon grow into a squadron.

THAT OPERA HOUSE...

A conference of people and organisations interested in the establishment of an Opera House in Sydney was presided over by the Premier, Mr Cahill, this week.

The conference supported the establishment of an Opera House and set up a committee to investigate suggestions for its site and design.

Mr Cahill said the Government had no preconceived ideas about the site or design but thought the proposed Opera House should be a monument worthy of Sydney.

He said Sydney's Opera House would be the first in Australia and it is probably many years since a similar project was undertaken anywhere in the world.

It was suggested that the building would not cost less than £1,500,000.

The question of an Opera House for Sydney has been a hardy old one that has been brought forward year after year—as a matter of fact, it is almost rivalling our famed non-existent Eastern Suburbs Railway.

This time, however, it would seem that we are on the right track and the venture has enough big names behind it to make it go.

PEARLING INDUSTRY

Reports from Darwin indicate that the Australian pearling industry is very sick indeed and unless something is done about it soon it will pass into the hands of the Japanese.

In the days before the war, when the Japs dived for Australian owners, the industry was worth millions of pounds, but now, as far as Australia is concerned, it is hardly worth talking about.

The Japanese recently hauled up shell worth £1 million in under four months while Australian luggers based on Darwin have been working eight months to pass the £150,000 mark. Eleven luggers were registered at Darwin at the beginning of the season but only eight operate today.

Unless the industry gets an unexpected lift, only one will be working in a year's time.

The secret of it all, of course, is divers. Divers in Darwin are more precious than pearls. The Japs, recognised as the world's best, are not now allowed to work for Australians but dive from their own fleets outside Australian territorial waters.

Greeks were imported to be the answer to the shortage, but it did not work out right, so this rich harvest is gradually falling into Japanese pockets.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"This'll please you, Dad! You know how you always told us to make friends? Well, we've each got a list of fifty to buy Christmas presents for!"

Inquest Into Death Of S/L Gauntlett

R.A.F. OFFICER DESCRIBES SPITFIRE CRASH

Flight-Lieutenant John Williams today described how Squadron Leader E. J. C. Gauntlett's Spitfire crashed on a firing run at Port Shelter Island on June 12.

He was testifying at a Coroner's inquest into S/L Gauntlett's death at Kowloon court.

Mr H. H. B. How sat as Coroner. A jury of three was empanelled. Inspector I. Buckingham appeared for the Police.

Flight-Lieutenant G. C. Cairns, R.A.F., Adjutant and Chief Flying Instructor of the H.K.A.A.F., testified that he on June 10 gave pilots of the Auxiliary Air Force flying instructions for June 12.

"Squadron Leader Gauntlett was one of the pilots," stated the witness.

IN GOOD HEALTH

On June 12, he and Gauntlett were assigned to take up two spitfires. Prior to taking off, witness spoke to Gauntlett who appeared quite normal and in good health.

Witness said he took off at 9 a.m. and flew to Port Shelter range. Prior to doing so, he saw Gauntlett preparing himself for the take-off.

Witness said that he did not see S/L Gauntlett or the Spitfire he was flying again.

When witness took off at 9 a.m. the weather was not suitable for air to ground firing so he waited for 30 minutes before commencing his sortie.

WEATHER BETTER

When S/L Gauntlett took off the weather had completely cleared up and was suitable for firing.

Witness said that S/L Gauntlett was efficient as a ground attack pilot and had done over 70 hours operational duty in ground strafing during the last few months of the war in Italy.

Flight-Lieutenant John D. Williams, R.A.F. Wing Weapon's Officer on June 12, said that on that day he acted as Port Shelter range safety officer.

At 9.45 a.m. on that day he said the H.K.A.A.F. used the range. The first aircraft to fly over was a Spitfire which identified its call sign of "Wisecrack 2". It was piloted by F/Lt Cairns. The plane left after its sortie.

The next plane over was "Wisecrack 4" which witness later identified as being piloted by S/L Gauntlett. Witness was indirectly in R. T. Communication with the plane and he could hear the conversation between the R. T. operator and S/L Gauntlett.

DUMMY RUN

At 10.15, "Wisecrack 4" flew across the range in a dummy run. S/L Gauntlett then asked witness for the angle of flight and dive correction. Witness kept the plane under observation all the time it was flying over the range.

S/L Gauntlett then asked for permission to begin his sortie. He then [illegible] the underside of the aircraft, which was still diving.

The plane pulled out sharply at 250 feet—which was above the safety height for operations of this kind—and the engine appeared to fade as the Spitfire was gently turning to port.

At about 500 to 600 feet, something else seemed to fall from the plane. Then the engine surged with life for a few seconds and died away completely.

APPEARED TO STALL

The aircraft was still climbing and had reached 1,500 feet, when it appeared to stall. The starboard wing dropped and the Spitfire went straight down, witness went on.

The plane disappeared behind Port Shelter Island.

Continuing, witness stated that the time then was 10.27 a.m. As soon as he had suspected engine failure he called the range safety launch on R/T and told them to "stand-by."

Witness stated that he kept the aircraft under observation for at least 12 minutes from the time it came over the range.

Hearing is continuing.

Fire At Colonial Cemetery: 2 Severely Burnt

A worker and his daughter suffered severe burns when a fire broke out at the workers' quarter of the Colonial Cemetery, Happy Valley at 10.50 a.m. today.

The fire was put out shortly after the arrival of two fire engines.

[illegible]

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T.

6 p.m., Time Signal and Programme Summary; 6.03, Children's Half Hour presented by Joan and Valerie (Studio); 6.30, Country Dancing, "Cumbrian Barn Dance" Alf Adamson and the Border Square Dance Band (BBCTS); 6.59, Weather Report; 7, Time Signal and World News (London Relay); 7.10, Commentary (London Relay) or Special Announcements; 7.15, "Box 200" Bert Gillett at the Organ (OB); 7.30, Test Cricket, England v. Australia, Report on the 3rd day's play in the 2nd Test Match at Sydney (London Relay); 7.40, Music and Song of Johann Strauss; 8, Educating Archie—with Peter Brough and Archie Andrews (BBCTS); 8.30, Concerto, Concerto No. 1 for Piano and Orchestra in A minor, Op. 15 (Edward MacDowell) — Vivian Rivkin (piano) with Orchestra of the Vienna State Opera cond. by Dean Dixon; 9, Time Signal. The Asian Club, "The Human Body" Speaker: Professor P.B. Medawar (Recorded London Relay); 9.30, "Off the Beaten Track" presented by Timothy Birch (Studio); 10, Uptown Rhythm; 10.15, Take it from Here. Dick Bentley and Jimmy Edwards with Wallas Eaton, Alma Cogan, June Whitfield. Repeat of last Thursday's Broadcast (BBCTS); 10.45, International Cabaret; 10.59, Weather Report; 11, Time Signal. Radio News Reel (Recorded London Relay); 11.15, Goodnight Music God Save The Queen; 11.30, Close down.

New U.S. Consul Arrives

Mr Everett Francis Drumright, new American Consul-General for Hongkong, arrived here in the SS President Wilson from the United States this morning [illegible]

Bailey Begins Third Week Of Testimony At Sessions

Albert Francis Bailey, 33-year-old merchant this morning entered the third week of his testimony at the Criminal Sessions to libel charges.

Bailey is on trial before Mr Justice J. Reynolds and a Jury of two women and five men.

He is alleged to have maliciously published defamatory libels in the form of letters to Messrs P. H. Sin, Y. H. Chan and S. K. Yee.

Mr Arthur Hooton, Q.C. Solicitor-General, and Mr D. N. E. Rea, Crown Counsel, are prosecuting, assisted by Det. Insp. R. Dudman.

Bailey is conducting his own defence.

Bailey asked Mr Yee to produce the originals of two bills of lading which were with the United Chinese Bank. He alleged that the Bank made alterations to a copy which he had not authorised.

NO RIGHT

"The United Chinese Bank changed the instructions and put in some words on the document. Probably the whole trouble stemmed from that. They had no right to alter a signed document written by me. It is a matter of forgery," Bailey complained.

He added that this was specifically pointed out by him at the hearing of the action dealing with these bills, but nothing was done about it.

Bailey declared that the real through ocean bill of lading which had always remained in the keeping of Royal Interocean Lines was a bill of lading to order. If this was part of the "so-called through bill of lading" it would not be to order, but it would be endorsed to the holders of the original bill of lading. This was proof that the real bill was separate.

Bailey asked for permission to read a banking authority to show that these so-called through bills of lading are valuable. He said he would call expert witnesses on this point.

READ IT HIMSELF

The Court suggested that this authority be put to his expert witnesses for their comment but Bailey said he would prefer to read it himself. He said "Since my quarrel with the Bank I find I am not very friendly with other banks."

Mr Hooton objected to Bailey reading the book as he was not an authority and the prosecution could not cross-examine a book.

"I am an expert on rubbishy bills of lading. What I have gone through certainly makes me an expert as to what is valueless," insisted Bailey.

He was not allowed to read his book, for the Court held it was not a proper way of adducing evidence.

NOT ACCEPTABLE

Bailey claimed that the bills of lading produced in the civil action were only received-for-shipment bills of lading which were not acceptable by British banks. He had read numerous authorities to that effect. British banks would only accept such bills upon expressed instructions to do so.

Mr Hooton interposed to say that the question for the Jury to decide was not whether these bills were through bills of lading. The question was whether there was any fraud on the part of the Bank; any dishonesty, in not producing certain other bills of lading which they had not got. "Bailey might be right and the Full Court might be wrong, but it does not make Mr Yee a fraud and perjurer," said Mr Hooton.

Mr Justice Reynolds remarked that it would not necessarily make Mr Yee a fraud; that depended on Mr Yee's knowledge.

Bailey: If some one knows a document is a forgery and he tenders it, he is tendering a forged document. A bank's only excuse is good faith. In this case S.K. Yee has nothing but bad faith.

ALLEGEDLY FORGED

Bailey maintained that these bills of lading were forged.

Mr Hooton replied that he was anxiously waiting for some evidence of that and the Court reminded Bailey that it was no good just saying there were other bills of lading which were not produced; there must be some concrete evidence.

Bailey said he understood that a man may commit forgery by signing his own name in a different way, and the Court agreed with him. [illegible] ing to the real bills. The Bank concealed the orders because they wanted to pretend falsely that the "so-called through bills of leading" were what they purported to be.

Bailey also alleged that the Bank made alterations, deletions, and additions to a letter of credit he signed without his authority.

Hearing is continuing.

Judging For Best Stall At C.M.U. Display

Judging in the competition for the best stall display at the 12th Exhibition of Hongkong Products took place at the Exhibition ground this morning.

A special panel of judges including Mr H. A. Angus, MBE, the Chairman, Mr Eric Cumine, FRIBA, AA (Dip), Miss Jũoy M. Lym, Mr K. A. Watson and Mrs H. G. Richards, arrived at the fair at 9 a.m.

The judges, accompanied by Mr U Tat-chee, the President of Chinese Manufacturers' Union, Mr Hui Ngok, the Chairman, Miss Pauline Chan and few other Union officials inspected all over the stalls and the judging lasted about one and a half hours.

The results were expected to be known later in the evening.

Owing to this competition, the Exhibition was closed to the public till 10.30 a.m.

Sandakan Light And Power Profit For 1954

A net profit of $155,054 for the year ending June 30, 1954 was reported by Major S. M. Churn, Chairman of Sandakan Light and Power Co. (1922) Ltd., at its annual meeting at York Building this afternoon.

Major Churn said that the upward trend in the production and sales of electricity of the Company continued during the year under review and the net profit was an increase of some $40,000 over last year's figure.

The Directors had decided to transfer $50,000 to the General Reserve and recommended a dividend at the same rate of 50 cents a share as last year, which called for a distribution of $100,000, Major Churn said.

Considerable progress had been made in the expansion and reconstruction programme. The Chairman also spoke of the increased installation of various units. With the implementation of the New Town Plan, it had been considered advisable to place High Tension cables underground in the Town area, the Chairman said. Government, however, had agreed to pay 50 per cent of the cost under this head.

The Reserve for staff superannuation was transferred to the balance to Sandakan to form the nucleus of a Provident Fund for local employees, the Chairman reported.

The Directors' Report, Accounts and Balance Sheet were adopted. A proposal by the Chairman that the balance available for distribution be dealt with as recommended by the Directors was carried unanimously.

Major S.M. Churn and Mr A. A. Wickerson, the retiring Directors, were re-elected, and Messrs Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co., the retiring Auditors, were reappointed as Auditors for the year 1954-55.

Mail Notices

[illegible]

From Our Files

100 Years Ago

About six o'clock last evening, information reached Mr May that several hundred armed men were embarking at the Lower Bazaar, and with his constables he managed to secure fifty-one of them. Little or no resistance was offered, only one man having drawn a knife upon the police; but some of the prisoners refused to walk to the Station, and had to be dragged along; and one fellow, more obstreperous than the others, got Mr May's finger in his mouth, and bit him rather severely. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was found. The men are Fukienese—the Amoy rebels mentioned in the Overland (edition of the China Mail) as having lately arrived in the Colony. Their destination is supposed to have been Cowlong.

☆ ☆ ☆

Our Whampoa correspondent, under date 19th December, writes as follows:—

I had nothing worth communicating for your Overland, (edition of the China Mail) neither have I much now.

The Rebels, or rather River Thieves, have seldom made their appearance these last ten days. They are sometimes heard of at night, prowling about, and pouncing on any poor unfortunate sampan that may have to pass from one reach to another after dark; and if there is nothing else on board worth robbing, the thieves take their oars and break them up for firewood.

The foreign powers in Canton seem to hesitate about putting them down, but it is just as necessary as the expedition to Kulan, and I have every reason to believe that a great number of the piratical gentlemen from that quarter are now in the rebel camp at Blenheim Reach, though the fellows there of course deny it. There is no better proof of what they are, than their extreme unpopularity among all the decent and industrious people about this quarter as well as in Canton, and I assure you that among these people they are generally looked upon as a set of desirable [illegible].

News From Labuan

The following is from our Labuan Correspondent, dated 7th December:—

[illegible], Captain Toms, arrived here the other day having experienced strong head winds and some heavy weather. She took in some coal at Port Raffles, and sails today for Hongkong. In future the Company, I believe, will keep a stock of coal for emergencies such as this.

The Eastern Archipelago Company's colliery is getting into working order. A new railway and jetty are in course of completion, and the staff has lately been augmented by the arrival of an experienced overman. The death of the late Resident Director has retarded operations very much, as his modus operandi was peculiar to himself. During a stroll in the jungle a few days ago I came across coal cropping out at four different places—a fortune for the Company at some future period.

Trade here, from some cause or other, is still on a very small scale. The natives cannot be induced to bring their families from the mainland.

There is very little sickness now. The coast is quiet at present, but we expect that about March it will be disturbed as usual by descents of Ilanuns and Balininis.

Pangeran Madota, the Prime Minister of Brunai, has just married the Sultan's niece.

PETITION TO CHIEF JUSTICE

(From our Overland Edition)

We are told that, on Friday, a petition was presented to the Chief Justice by a woman named Chang Wong-shi, on behalf of her husband, who, with three others, was convicted of piracy at the October Criminal Sessions, and had sentence of death recorded against him—to be commuted, of course, for transportation for life. We are not aware as to what facts have transpired since, but at the trial the evidence against the prisoners seemed very conclusive, while that for the defence was contradictory. The village is a noted one, and is better known to foreigners as Pirate's Bay than by its Chinese name Ching-wan, and piracies are frequent in its neighbourhood, as is well known to such foreigners as occasionally visit it for sporting purposes. One of the convicts had also been previously before the Court, accused of a similar offence, but was acquitted.

We subjoin the latest report of the trial as given in our issue of 19th October:—

[illegible]

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